

Women Discrimination in Mexico and Impact towards The National Security



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ABSTRACT: Mexico is currently grappling with a humanitarian crisis, particularly affecting its female population, which has the potential to lead to severe consequences such as the degradation of the country. This research aims to study the impact of women's discrimination towards Mexican national security. The objective of this research is to ascertain the specific manifestations of discrimination against women in Mexico, examine the implications of such discrimination on national security, and analyze the proactive measures implemented by the Mexican government and non-governmental organizations in addressing this pervasive issue. The qualitative methodology employed in this study originates from secondary sources and the concept used was national security. The results of this study indicate that discrimination against women in Mexico has been influenced by factors within the political, economic, and social domains. It highlights risks for women in Mexican politics and underscores societal discrimination, particularly affecting Indigenous women. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it intensifies gender-based issues, emphasizing the urgency of addressing inequality in Mexico. The ramifications of women's discrimination in Mexico extend across societal facets, contributing to increased crime rates, societal instability, and heightened poverty levels. In anticipation of these consequences, it is imperative to evaluate the vulnerability of various economic sectors and formulate strategies to mitigate their susceptibility. Collaboration between the government and non-governmental organizations is essential to implement initiatives focused on enhancing adaptation capabilities, fortifying legal frameworks, and providing support to affected communities.

KEYWORDS: Communities, Mexico, National security, Women Discrimination, societal instability.

INTRODUCTION

Mexico, officially known as the United Mexican States, is situated in southern North America and shares its borders with the United States to the north, Belize, and Guatemala to the south. It is bounded by three bodies of water: the Pacific Ocean, the Caribbean Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico. Covering an approximate area of 770,000 square miles, Mexico stands as the thirteenth largest country globally, with a population exceeding 120 million inhabitants. The nation is a federation comprising 31 states and Mexico City, which also functions as the capital (Bada, F. 2018).

According to Ferdinand (2018), the country had a considerable nominal gross domestic product (GDP) of roughly \$1.199 trillion, ranking it 15th in the world. According to a prediction, the country might be the fifth-largest economy in the world by 2050. This robust economy is supported by a diverse range of sectors, including considerable amounts of natural resources throughout the country. The primary natural resources in Mexico include minerals like gold, copper, silver and petroleum. Additionally, the country possesses vast forests that provide timber, and there is fertile agricultural land that contributes to its resource wealth.

Unlike men, women in this region face greater challenges in satisfying their basic needs since they work in low-productivity occupations and earn less income both wage and non- wage. Gender violence is a persistent issue for women throughout the region. A significant number of women in Central America have faced violence during their lives, with approximately half of them experienced it. Shockingly, two out of every three women who are murdered in the region fall victim to femicide, which means they are targeted and killed specifically because they are women. Despite significant increases over the last two decades, women's participation in economic activities of 40% to 49% remains lower than men's which is 79% to 86% (IFAD, 2013).

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Discriminatory gender norms play a significant role in perpetuating violence against women and girls (VAWG). Gender norms refer to unwritten societal rules and commonly held expectations that prescribe specific behaviors based on an individual's gender. Gender norms (the most prominent of which is machismo) are prevalent in Latin America and impact attitudes and behaviors about VAWG. Machismo associates being a "real man" with dominance, aggression, and pride. A "good woman," on the other hand, is relegated to a reproductive function and is expected to be submissive, pure, and stay at home for care tasks. These masculinity and femininity understandings are critical for understanding gender interactions and family dynamics in Mexico, as well as the drivers of VAWG in this national setting (Meyer & Conroy, 2022).

This research aims to examine the issue of women's discrimination in Mexico and its impact on national security. Women, who are Mexico's largest untapped resource, face significant challenges. Despite their educational achievements matching those of men, only 47% of working-age Mexican women are employed. A majority of working women, nearly 60%, engage in informal employment characterized by limited social protection and low wages. Mexico has a high rate of adolescent pregnancies, and a considerable proportion of young women are neither employed, enrolled in school, nor participating in any training programs, with the number being approximately four times higher than young men in the same situation. Compared to other OECD countries, Mexican mothers, regardless of age, are less likely to be employed (OECD, 2017).

In recent years, there has been a rise in the percentage of women engaged in the workforce in Mexico, but it still trails behind other Latin American nations in this regard (OECD, 2016a). Only 40% of women in Mexico are part of the workforce, and the significant proportion of young women who are neither studying nor working (31% of women under 24 compared to 9% of men in the same age group) indicates that gender disparities begin early in life. Women face underrepresentation across all levels of employment. Despite comprising 46% of university graduates, they hold only 37% of entry-level positions and a mere 10% of executive committee seats. This inequality is even more pronounced in domestic businesses, where, on average, there are 10% fewer women employed compared to international companies operating in Mexico. These statistics demonstrate the discrimination faced by women in Mexico (Kinsey. M & Company, 2018).

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this literature review, two themes will be used. Firstly, discrimination against women and secondly mitigation for women's discrimination.

a. Discrimination against women

Mexico stands out as one of the most unequal nations in Latin America, marked by significant disparities across states and regions concerning education, poverty levels, development, access to basic services, and healthcare (Fuentes & Montes, 2004). These inequalities underscore the necessity for the establishment of a Gender Equality Index in Mexican States (GEIMS) to evaluate and analyze the state of gender equality across different regions. Notably, women constitute 51.3% of the Mexican population, with 94.8 men for every 100 women. Despite certain exceptions, Mexico has traditionally been a society dominated by males, and the influence of machismo remains pervasive in various segments of the country (Tony, 2020). Over the last decade, shifting male and female role patterns have introduced the Spanish term "machismo" into the American language (Basham. R, 1976).

In an article written by Frías. S, (2014), *Structural and Ideological Gender Equality in Mexico*, women's representation in public offices may vary depending on the political atmosphere or the type of election. Mexico has seen a contentious democratic transition in recent years, in addition to the high number of elections held every three years and the non-re-election rule. The passage of mandatory gender quota laws has contributed to a chaotic pattern of female representation in the political sphere, as females tend to occupy substitute positions and have been documented as being forced to resign in favor of substitute men.

According to an article written by Henry & Fraga in 2019, *Gender Equality and Old-age Income Security*, in the case of Mexico, Mexican women are over represented in low- wage sectors and are primarily involved in an informal work. Part-time employment is more common among Mexican women than among men. These gaps during working years contribute to severe gender differences in old-age income security, with far fewer people eligible for contributory pension payouts and generating significantly less income from labor later in life. Closing these gaps would make a major difference in lowering a future economic dependency. Martinez et al. (2021) in a journal of Women in formal and informal labor markets in Mexico stated that a marriage and other forms of union and having children limit women's labor-force involvement. Moms have 5.5% lower employment rates and 6.3% lower hourly wages than childless women. Being a mother is also linked to a lower likelihood of having a paid employment (López et al, 2021). According to studies, women who try to re-enter the work market after having a child, would experience a salary penalty. Besides, women who return to the labor forces after giving birth would also

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experience the same. Martinez also stated that moms in Mexico have a 4.4 percentage point lower labor force participation rate as compared to childless women.

Gupta J. (2018), in a study written in the Article of *Intimate Partner Violence against Low-income Women in Mexico City and Associations with Work-related Disruptions: A Latent Class Analysis using cross-sectional data*, emphasized the need to address certain social considerations. Specifically, there is a crucial requirement to explore the impact of intimate partner violence (IPV) on the employment outcomes of women in Mexico. Despite making strides towards achieving Millennium Development Goal indicators for gender and women's empowerment, a national survey revealed a 33% prevalence of IPV. Additionally, national data indicated that 37.8% of economically active Mexican women experienced some form of IPV in the preceding year, with higher rates of severe violence observed among women employed outside the home (Indey, G. 2013). Given the limited financial resources and increased reliance on abusive relationships among lower-income women in Mexico, researching the effects of IPV on work becomes particularly pertinent. Moreover, women constitute 51% of the informal self-employed workforce (Gupta et al., 2018).

For its part, it has been stated that cases of gender-based violence against women in Mexico and around the world are the result of systematic violations of human rights and cultural and sociologically deeply rooted conditions within a context of generalized violence and systemic discrimination. Only one frightening fact from the United Nations (UN) reveals the scale of this global phenomenon, one out of every three women has experienced some form of violence during their lives, whether physical, psychological, institutional, or economic. In comparison, 6 out of 10 Mexican women had experienced at least one form of violence (López, G. A. 2019).

b. Mitigation for women's discrimination

Friás, S. (2014) claimed in an article about *gender inequality in Mexico* that women in Mexico are still far from achieving gender equality in the social structure. Nonetheless, the progress is astonishing. In 2005, women had only achieved 26% political equality with males. The gender difference was similar 42% in the business and legal sectors, and 35% in the educational sector. Men and women were still treated differently under the law. In terms of education, both genders were more on the same level still, there was a 35% discrepancy. After seven years, the level of gender equality in Mexico has grown dramatically, from a state average of 43.9% in 2005 to 66.9% in 2012. The legal component has seen the greatest development in gender equality (41.7% in 2005 vs. 69.2% in 2012), followed by the educational dimension (64.8% vs. 82.2%). Gender equality has improved less noticeably in the economic realm (42.4% vs. 49.5%).

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) noted in 2017, in its report titled *"Building an Inclusive Mexico: Policies and Good Governance for Gender Equality,"* that the Mexican government has taken limited measures to address gender equality issues. The government of Mexico has integrated gender equality as a cross-cutting axis in the National Development Plan and has recently pledged to elevate the National System for Gender Equality between Men and Women to ministerial status. In 2016, the President of Mexico presided over the inaugural meeting of the National System, unveiling key equity initiatives, including enhanced gender mainstreaming in the Federal Public Administration, and reiterating Mexico's commitment to eliminating gender-based violence. The National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) plays a crucial role in supporting and promoting the gender equality agenda.

Centro De Investigation International (2020), in an article *Conceptualizing Feminist Foreign Policy: Notes for Mexico* claimed that since a few years ago, Mexico has emphasized the need to incorporate into all government actions, including foreign policy. The organization of the inaugural World Conference on Women in Mexico City in 1975, where the first standards on gender equality were created in multilateral fora, was maybe the beginning point (The PND 2019). Since then, and in line with Mexico's activism to include a gender perspective in the United Nations (UN) development agenda, particularly the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action in 1995, multilateral measures have been turned into national policies. The National Commission for Women (CONMUJER) was established inside the Ministry of the Interior in 1998 and was renamed the National Institute for Women (INMUJERES) in 2001, with additional state and local entities following.

In a 2020 article titled *"Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for Inclusive Growth in Mexico,"* authored by Gurria, it was highlighted that Mexico has made significant advancements in the pursuit of gender equality and addressing gender disparities. The introduction of gender quotas in the legislature in 2002, reiterated in 2008 and 2014, along with the implementation of the 2015-2018 National Program for Equality between Women and Men (PROIGUALDAD), and the mandate for political parties to actively promote gender parity in nominations and allocate 3% of their ordinary expenditure for women's training, are indicative of the country's commitment to addressing gender imbalances. A key focus in achieving gender equality involves enhancing the representation of women in leadership positions. Mexico has been at the forefront of implementing policies aimed at augmenting women's participation in public life. By the year 2017, women held more than 40%

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of congressional seats, surpassing the OECD average of 30%.

López, G. A. (2019), in an article discussing *"Femicide and Gender Violence in Mexico: Elements for A Systemic Approach"*, highlights that Mexico formally established a legal framework for women's rights in 2007. This legal framework, specifically aimed at ensuring the right to live free of violence and discrimination, was realized through the adoption of the General Law of Access for Women to a Life Free of Violence (GLAWLFV). The enactment of this law aimed to address the alarming prevalence of violence against women in Mexico, particularly in its extreme manifestation as femicide. The GLAWLFV defines femicide as the intentional murder of women resulting from gender-based violence against them. In other words, femicide involves violent killings driven by misogyny, discrimination, and hatred, wherein perpetrators, whether relatives or strangers, engage in acts of extreme brutality against the victims. This occurs within a context of permissiveness by the State, which is seen as failing in its responsibility to protect the lives and safety of women, either through direct actions or omissions, as noted in the report "Femicide and Impunity in Mexico" by the Observatorio Ciudadano Nacional Del Femicidio (OCNF) in 2012.

"The Generation Equality" article by UN Women in 2021, Generation Equality is the world's premier project to accelerate gender equality funding and implementation. It brings organizations from all walks of life together to catalyze development, lobby for change, and take daring actions. The effort, gathered by UN Women, aims to ensure that the high objectives of the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action on Women's Rights are ultimately understood as well as that the Sustainable Development Goals are met. Generation Equality also attempts to increase public support for gender equality, with a particular emphasis on harnessing young people's energy, activity, and ideas. The Generation Equality Forum, held in Mexico City and Paris in 2021, inaugurated Generation Equality. The Forum launched a 5-year action agenda for gender equality, encapsulated in a Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality, which specifies the most crucial steps required to accelerate progress over the next five years. The forum held in Mexico shows how the country and the government itself were trying to solve this issue.

In an article titled *"Rights in Gender Times"* by Nieto (2015), it is asserted that despite persistent violence against women, female involvement in the public sphere in Mexico has experienced significant growth since the 1950s. The advancement of women's political rights has been a gradual outcome of legal reforms propelled by the feminist movement and broader social struggles. Noteworthy among these reforms are changes in electoral tribunal judgments, evolving jurisprudence, and the implementation of gender quotas. A pivotal moment in Mexican legal history occurred with the political-electoral reform of February 10th, 2014, as it mandated political parties to present an equal number of male and female candidates, based on the principles of relative majority and proportional representation, in the Chamber of Deputies, Senate of the Republic, and local legislative bodies. Additionally, as per the law, both the officeholder (propietario) and the deputy substitute (suplente) must belong to the same gender.

In a 2002 article titled *"Mexican Women Still Face Discrimination, despite Significant Steps"* by Committee Told, Patricia Espinosa Torres, the President of the National Institute for Mexican Women, extended a welcome to all and presented a film prepared by the National Women's Institute. As depicted in the film, the Institute was the outcome of decades of dedicated efforts by Mexican women and had acquired the status of a decentralized Federal Government agency under the current government. The Institute, during this period, conducted 54 public consultations and formulated the National Program for Equality of Opportunity and Non-discrimination against Women (Proequidad). It further organized 72 events and engaged in discussions with individuals responsible for implementing gender policy in various state ministries. The Institute sponsored training and development courses and provided guidance to facilitate the inclusion of a gender perspective in the plans and initiatives of the Ministry of Health and the Political Development Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior.

In Marin's work from 2023, titled *"The EU as A Gender Equality Actor in Mexico: An Active Agent with A Potential for Further Engagement,"* it is suggested that the European Union (EU) has solidified its position as a global influencer in the realm of human rights. Notably, the EU and Mexico engaged in negotiations for the Global Agreement, a modernized version of their Free Trade Agreement (FTA). An 'agreement in principle' was reached on April 21, 2018, and the finalization of negotiations for a modernized trade component occurred on April 28, 2020. This collaboration led to the formalization of a strategic partnership and the signing of a free trade agreement between the EU and Mexico. These agreements set the stage for various dialogues, including the Joint Parliamentary Committee and the High-Level Dialogue on Human Rights, serving as platforms for exchanging ideas and best practices in pursuit of gender equality. Additionally, the EU actively supports numerous projects in Mexico aimed at assisting the country in advancing its goals for gender equality.

Ngo's Promoting Gender Equality in Mexico by Tri Truong (2021) announced that for non-governmental organizations, few agencies have been established to aid this matter. Firstly, Fondo Semillas ("Seeds Fund") is a Mexican non-profit feminist organization. The organization's ultimate goal is to build an equal country in which women have the ability to make their own decisions. Fondo Semillas attempts to mobilize domestic and international resources. It seeks institutional, corporate, and

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individual contributions to accomplish this. Secondly, Las Libres is a feminist organization whose principal goal is to promote women's human rights and to demand that women's rights be respected across Mexico. The organization's main goal is to give women access to legal and medical services. It also emphasizes the empowerment of indigenous, uneducated, or low-income women.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

In this research, the national security concept will be used. The phrase "national security" is one that is relatively recent. Its features can be seen in Madison's works, and more recently in Walter Lippmann's 1943 work "US Foreign Policy." It was not until World War I that the term "national security" secured a position in the "strategic" vocabulary alongside terms like military affairs, external and military policy, and more. Even at the current level of social development, the phrase national security is usually associated with a sovereign nation-state in the sense of physical integrity protection. This is evident in many of the ways that "national security" has been defined in the social science literature.

Dimitrijević, V (1973) has listed the following five characteristics as the fundamental components of national security. Firstly, maintaining the existence of the state as a political community, the existence of the country (which is not the same as the existence of a specific state), and the physical survival of its citizens. Secondly, defending territorial integrity as a fundamental right of the state. Thirdly, preserving political independence is an element of the state's globally recognized national status. Next, is by ensuring the citizen's life quality and lastly inclusion of the state's "vital interest" in national security strategy.

Nobilo, M. (1988), an academic delving into the security aspects of contemporary international relations, offers a definition of national security as "a complex interplay involving political, economic, military, ideological, legal, social, and various internal and external factors through which individual states seek to guarantee satisfactory conditions for preserving their sovereignty, territorial integrity, the physical well-being of their population, political independence, and opportunities for equitable and swift social development on an equitable basis" (Grizold A, 1994).

METHODOLOGY

This research paper uses the qualitative method. Secondary data will be mainly used in this paper as the main sources. The data is acquired from published or printed resources such as books as well as online data sources. This includes publicly available publications, scientific e-books, articles, journals, and reports. All secondary data material is essential and necessary for the completion of this research and can be referred to through a trusted website or the National Defense University of Malaysia (NDUM) library. Reliable websites and newspapers for the newest information, thesis including individuals who accomplish studies on the problem addressed, that can be obtained through the public website were also being used as references in this research.

URLs for several websites were used such as <https://www.un.org/en/> for United Nations and <https://nationalinterest.org/> for National Interest. The text analysis approach is the second area of concentration in this work. A clear understanding and the discovery of opposing viewpoints on the subject are both assisted by the approach. The materials used are generally straightforward and informative. E-books, journals, and articles from a variety of sources provided help as the research materials.

DISCUSSION

Women discrimination in Mexico is a deeply entrenched and multifaceted issue that has persisted over decades, manifesting in various forms and impacting the lives of women across the country. Despite legal reforms and international commitments to promote gender equality, Mexico continues to grapple with the pervasive challenges of gender-based discrimination. This discrimination affects women across different facets of their lives, from their personal safety and economic opportunities to their access to education and political representation. Understanding the type, implications of women's discrimination and preventive measures taken in Mexico is essential for addressing not only the immediate concerns of women but also the broader social and economic well-being of the nation.

In the realm of Mexican politics, women encounter substantial obstacles, including instances of violence and economic discrimination. The political sphere frequently exhibits inherent gender bias, creating formidable hurdles for women seeking candidacy or positions of authority. Even initiatives designed to foster women's participation, such as quotas, can provoke resistance and, in some cases, escalate to violence. Kidnapping and physical assault are also threat women may confront. Additionally, economic maltreatment becomes evident as allocated funds intended to support women's leadership

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development are often diverted for unrelated purposes, despite legislative guidelines.

Furthermore, it is imperative to acknowledge that gender-based economic inequality, frequently recognized as the gender pay gap, endures as a significant and enduring issue of global magnitude. Within the Mexican context, women grapple with a multitude of economic discriminations that impede their progress. These discriminations manifest in several forms, including underrepresentation within the workforce, an obligation to work more extended hours, and the allocation of a disproportionate amount of their time to tasks of lower productivity. Despite notable advancements, the presence of women in managerial and leadership roles, particularly within the healthcare sector, still lags, underscoring a persistent deficiency. This state of affairs necessitates continued efforts to rectify gender-based economic disparities.

Additionally, it is crucial to recognize that women in Mexico bear a substantial and disproportionate load of unpaid household and childcare responsibilities, a burden that constrains their active participation in paid employment. These responsibilities, although vital, limit women's ability to engage fully in the workforce. Gender-based wage disparities are palpable, with women consistently earning less in both the formal and informal economic sectors. This wage gap is further compounded by disparities in educational attainment and the complexities introduced by motherhood, which amplifies these existing disparities. Women encounter considerable challenges in seeking gainful employment and establishing job security, factors that often lead to a higher proportion of women engaging in the informal sector. This informal sector is characterized by lower remuneration and a lack of comprehensive employment benefits, painting a stark picture of gender-based economic inequalities that demand attention and rectification.

In the social sector, discrimination against women in Mexican society spans various aspects, including education, healthcare, and social services. Women, especially those from marginalized communities, face layers of discrimination due to factors like gender, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, and socioeconomic status. Physical violence against women is a significant issue, with high rates of assault, homicide, kidnapping, and sexual violence. A substantial portion of these cases go unreported due to public mistrust in the legal system. Indigenous women are particularly vulnerable to forced sterilization, driven by discrimination, inadequate access to healthcare services, and high rates of illiteracy. In addition, the provision of care for unmarried Indigenous women is insufficient, particularly concerning access to abortion services. Men often have better access to healthcare than women, who also bear caregiving responsibilities and are more susceptible to infections. The COVID-19 pandemic has also exacerbated gender inequality, increasing women's caregiving burdens, especially in informal settlements. There have been protests against femicide, domestic violence, and sexual exploitation, with a notable surge in requests for support during the pandemic, emphasizing the urgency of addressing these issues in Mexico.

Discrimination against women in Mexico has profound impacts across various sectors. In the political arena, limited women's participation hampers inclusive policy decisions, contributing to societal instability. Protests and movements, such as "Ni Una Menos" and International Women's Day Marches, draw attention to gender-based violence and influence political engagement. Such protests can have global implications, affecting perceptions of Mexico and eroding trust in the government. Within the economic sector, the gender wage gap exacerbates poverty among women, with single mothers being particularly affected. The informal workforce, where women are prevalent, faces challenges in accessing pensions and benefits, leaving them financially vulnerable in their later years. These disparities not only perpetuate economic inequality but also hinder overall economic growth by underutilizing the country's human potential, ultimately impeding Mexico's progress and development. It is crucial for Mexico to address these issues comprehensively to ensure a more equitable and prosperous future for all its citizens. Lastly, discrimination's social impact includes driving some women into prostitution due to limited job opportunities, low wages, and financial struggles. Gender discrimination limits education and employment prospects, affecting not only women's economic well-being but also their children's access to quality education. This complex problem also increases the risk of sexually transmitted infections and health issues among children of sex workers, compounding social challenges. Failings in investigating gender-based violence, including femicides, not only violate women's human rights but also have profound societal and economic costs. Addressing these issues is essential for Mexico's progress and the well-being of its population.

The Mexican government has taken significant steps to address gender disparities and promote gender equality. Over the past decade, Mexico has made notable commitments both domestically and internationally to achieve genuine gender equality, including enacting the General Equality Law between Women and Men in 2006 and implementing the National Program for Equality between Women and Men (PROIGUALDAD). These initiatives have placed gender equality at the forefront of the country's goals. Mexico has also established an institutional framework for advancing gender equality, with the 2006 General Law on Equality between Women and Men assigning the federal government the responsibility of designing and implementing gender equality policies. The Institute of the Women of Mexico City (INMUJERES) serves as the primary agency for

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coordinating these initiatives at federal, state, and municipal levels, with a significant standing within the Executive Cabinet. Various governmental bodies such as Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Ministry of Transportation and Secretariat of Welfare and the Institute of Indigenous Peoples, have implemented measures to support women in every sector, and particularly those facing violence and discrimination. These initiatives underscore the government's commitment to gender equality and the well-being of women.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a crucial role in advancing gender equality in Mexico. Some prominent NGOs, such as Fondo Semillas, Simone de Beauvoir Leadership Institute (ILSB), Nuestras Hijas de Regreso a Casa, and Las Libres, are actively involved in empowering women and addressing gender-based challenges through advocacy, support, and awareness initiatives. These combined efforts by the Mexican government and NGOs demonstrate a commitment to addressing gender disparities and promoting gender equality, even as challenges persist, highlighting the ongoing need for transformation and advocacy in Mexico.

CONCLUSION

It becomes evident that gender discrimination in Mexico has ramifications that extend across multiple sectors, encompassing political, economic, and social domains, thereby impacting national security. It is noteworthy that other countries may encounter similar issues of discrimination but with varying actors involved. These actors could encompass gender-based discrimination, discrimination against transgender individuals, indigenous communities, or immigrants. Therefore, it is highly advisable that future researchers delve into these specific actors. Drawing from the substantial findings and data generated by this research on the protection of national security in Mexico, Malaysian governmental agencies could leverage this platform to address their own national security concerns related to various forms of discrimination against their citizens. This research could serve as a valuable reference or comparative study for forthcoming research endeavors in Malaysia, facilitating a deeper understanding of the implications of discrimination on national security.

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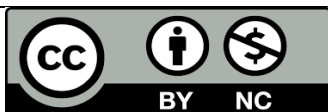
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