International humanitarian law grants women general protection as civilian persons \(^1\), and required that women members of the armed forces \(^2\) shall in all cases benefit from treatment as favourable as that granted to men. Besides this basic protection international humanitarian law grants women special protection including:

- protection against outrages upon personal dignity and in particular against rape \(^3\), enforced prostitution and any form of indecent assault;
- the protection given to expectant mothers, maternity cases and mothers of infants;
- the rule that women deprived of liberty, i.e. civilian internees \(^4\) or prisoners of war \(^5\), must be confined in separate quarters from male internees and must be under the immediate supervision of women.

See Rape \(^3\);
special protection of

GCI, 12 [7] (see ICRC updated Commentary [8])

GCII, 12 [9] (see ICRC updated Commentary [10])


GCIV, 14 [16], 16 [17], 21 [18]–27 [19], 38 [20], 50 [21], 76 [22], 85 [23], 89 [24], 91 [25], 97 [26], 124 [27], 127 [28] and 132 [29]

PI, 70 [30], 75 [31]–76 [32]

PII, 5/2 [33] and 6/4 [34]

CIHL, 134 [35]

expectant mothers

GCIV, 14/1 [16], 16 [17], 23/1 [36], 38/5 [20], 50/5 [21], 89/5 [24], 132/2 [29]

PI, 70/1 [30]; 76 [32]

PII, 6/4 [34]

maternity cases
GCIV, 21[18]-23[36], 89/5[24], 91/2[25] and 127/3[28]

PI, 8[37], 70[30]

POWs


PI, 75/5[31]

Internees

GCIV, 76/4[22], 85/4[23], 97/4[26], 124/3[27]

PI, 75/5[31]

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Further readings:


Feminist approach

Suggested readings:


**Further readings:**


**Source URL:** https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/women

**Links**

[7]