In its simplest form, the rule of law means that “no one is above the law.” It is the foundation for the development of peaceful, equitable and prosperous societies. For the rule of law to be effective, there must be:

**Accessible Legal Remedy**

Access to Legal Resources—There must be access to timely justice mechanisms for grievance remedies and peaceful resolutions.

57% of the world’s population, or four billion people, live outside the protection of the rule of law.

**Equality Under the Law**

Furthering Women’s Rights—All are equal under the law and the law applies in the same way to all—government, citizens, companies, etc.

Globally, women earn 24% less than men.¹

19.1%/80.9% of seats in national parliaments are held by men.²

1 in 4 women will experience violence in her lifetime.³

**Transparency of Law**

Combating Human Trafficking—Laws must be clear, precise, affordable and accessible while protecting fundamental human rights.

The International Labor Organization estimates that there are 20.9 million victims of human trafficking globally, including 5.5 million children. 55% are women and girls.⁴

The International Labor Organization estimates that forced labor and human trafficking is a $150 billion industry worldwide.

20.9 Million Victims

100,000 children estimated to be in the sex trade in the United States each year.⁵

**An Independent Judiciary**

An independent judiciary ensures equality and fairness of law between people and public officials.

3 in every 4 Americans believe campaign cash affects courtroom decisions—and, alarmingly, nearly half of state court judges themselves believe the same.

90% of Americans think judges should not hear cases involving campaign supporters, but outdated judicial conduct rules allow this to occur routinely.

**The Rule of Law**

Learn more at lexisnexis.com/ruleoflaw

**Additional Resources**

3. http://www.eumonitor.nl/9353000/1/j9vvik7m1c3gyxp/viyu74r0maz2

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