

# Domestic Violence Law in Global Perspective: Trends, Gaps, and Insights from Bibliometric Analysis

Nor Azlina Mohd Noor\*

School of Law, Universiti Utara Malaysia, Sintok, Kedah, Malaysia

\*Corresponding Author

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.47772/IJRISS.2026.10100231>

Received: 15 January 2026; Accepted: 20 January 2026; Published: 02 February 2026

## ABSTRACT

Domestic violence is a pervasive issue that affects millions of individuals globally, transcending cultural, economic, and social boundaries. This study examines global scholarly trends, gaps and insight on domestic violence law by conducting a comprehensive bibliometric analysis aimed at identifying research patterns, dominant themes, and emerging areas of inquiry. Domestic violence continues to present significant legal and social challenges worldwide, yet the breadth and evolution of academic contributions in this field remain insufficiently mapped, creating a gap in understanding how legal scholarship has responded to shifting global dynamics. To address this gap, the study collected data using the Scopus advanced search function, yielding a final dataset of 1053 publications that met the predefined criteria. The methodological process involved statistical and graphical examination through the Scopus Analyzer, followed by data cleaning and harmonisation using OpenRefine to ensure accuracy and consistency across author names, keywords, and institutional affiliations. Subsequently, VOSviewer was employed to generate visualisations of co-authorship networks, keyword co-occurrence structures, and thematic clusters, enabling deeper interpretation of intellectual linkages and research trajectories. The numerical results show a marked increase in publication activity over the last decade, a concentration of contributions from high income countries, and the prominence of core research themes such as intimate partner violence, policing, gender-based discrimination, child protection, and international legal frameworks. Network visualisation further demonstrates the formation of several coherent clusters that reflect interdisciplinary intersections between law, criminology, public health, and social policy. In conclusion, the findings provide an integrated overview of global academic engagement with domestic violence law, offering valuable insights for policymakers, researchers, and practitioners seeking to understand current knowledge structures and future research directions in this critical legal domain.

**Keywords:** domestic, violence, law, family, bibliometric

## INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence (DV) is a pervasive issue that affects millions of individuals globally, transcending cultural, economic, and social boundaries. It is recognized as a significant violation of human rights, with profound implications for the victims, predominantly women, and their families. The global response to domestic violence has evolved over the decades, with various countries adopting legal frameworks aimed at preventing and addressing this issue. Despite these efforts, there remains a substantial gap between the existence of laws and their effective implementation, necessitating a comprehensive examination of domestic violence laws worldwide.

Domestic violence manifests in various forms, including physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse, often perpetrated by intimate partners or family members. The prevalence of domestic violence is alarmingly high, with estimates suggesting that between 20% and 50% of women worldwide have experienced physical violence at the hands of an intimate partner [1]. This widespread issue has prompted international organizations

and governments to develop measures to combat and prevent domestic violence. However, the effectiveness of these measures varies significantly across different regions and legal systems [2], [3].

The need to carry out this study is underscored by the persistent challenges in bridging the gap between law and practice. While many countries have enacted domestic violence laws, the implementation and enforcement of these laws often fall short. For instance, in Kazakhstan, the legislative system is weak, and law enforcement agencies are often ineffective in protecting victims [4]. Similarly, in Nigeria, despite constitutional provisions and international commitments to eliminate violence against women, domestic violence remains rampant, and victims frequently face difficulties in obtaining justice [5]. These examples highlight the critical need for a thorough analysis of domestic violence laws and their practical implications.

The literature on domestic violence laws reveals several key concepts and trends. One significant trend is the adoption of comprehensive legal frameworks that criminalize domestic violence and provide protection and support for victims. For example, the United Nations and regional organizations like the Council of Europe have established binding instruments that require member states to enact and enforce laws addressing domestic violence [6]. These frameworks often include provisions for ex officio proceedings, allowing investigations and prosecutions to continue even if the victim withdraws their complaint [6]. However, the effectiveness of these legal measures is often hindered by cultural and social norms that normalize violence and discourage victims from seeking help [7].

Another critical aspect of domestic violence laws is the variation in their adoption and implementation across different regions. Higher-income countries tend to adopt domestic violence laws earlier and more comprehensively than lower-income regions [3]. For instance, Pacific small island states have recently enacted domestic violence laws in response to high rates of intimate partner violence, but their implementation faces significant challenges due to cultural and religious norms that condone violence [7]. Similarly, in the global South, responses to domestic violence vary widely, with some countries having robust legal frameworks while others lack adequate legislation [8].

The effectiveness of domestic violence laws is also influenced by the type of legal provisions in place. Studies have shown that laws specifically addressing domestic violence and those incorporated into criminal codes are more strongly associated with lower prevalence rates of intimate partner violence [3]. Additionally, the presence of multiple laws regulating domestic violence is correlated with reduced violence, highlighting the importance of a comprehensive legal approach [3]. However, the mere existence of laws is not sufficient; their successful implementation requires adequate resources, training for law enforcement, and societal support for victims [9].

For that reason, domestic violence remains a critical global issue that necessitates ongoing attention and action. While significant progress has been made in developing legal frameworks to address domestic violence, challenges in implementation and enforcement persist. This study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of domestic violence laws around the world, examining their effectiveness, the barriers to their implementation, and the impact of cultural and social norms on their enforcement. By understanding these dynamics, policymakers and stakeholders can develop more effective strategies to combat domestic violence and support victims, ultimately contributing to a safer and more just society.

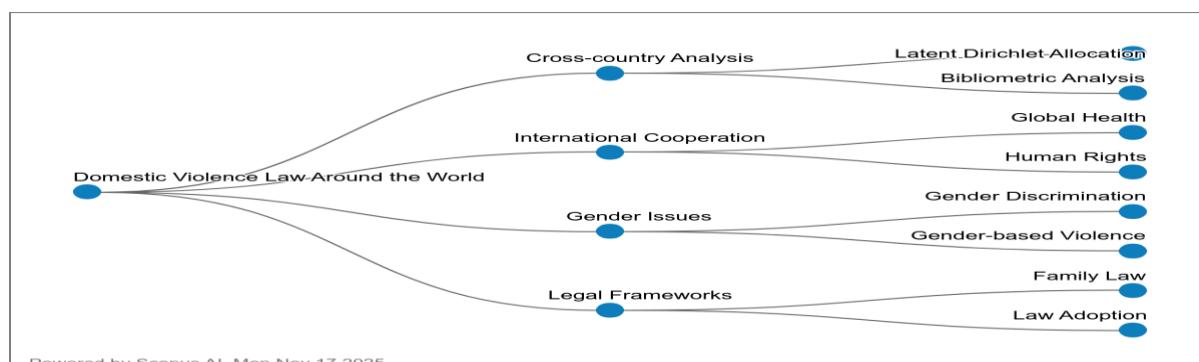


Figure 1. Key concepts generated on domestic violence law in global perspective

**Figure 1** presents a concept map illustrating twelve interconnected concepts related to domestic violence law around the world, arranged from left to right in a deductive structure that begins with the central theme and progresses toward specific analytical domains. The map starts with the core concept of domestic violence law around the world, which expands into four major intermediate concepts, namely cross-country analysis, international cooperation, gender issues, and legal frameworks. Each of these branches further divides into more focused thematic areas, such as latent Dirichlet allocation and bibliometric analysis under cross-country analysis, and global health and human rights under international cooperation. Gender issues are linked to gender discrimination and gender-based violence, while legal frameworks lead toward family law and law adoption. Collectively, these twelve concepts reflect a broad yet systematic understanding of how domestic violence laws vary across countries, how international mechanisms and gender dynamics shape legal responses, and how adoption and reform of legislation remain central to strengthening protection. In conclusion, the map highlights the multidimensional nature of domestic violence law globally, showing that effective legal development depends on rigorous comparative analysis, sustained cooperation, and sensitivity to gendered experiences embedded within diverse legal systems.

## Research Questions

This study investigates the following five research questions:

RQ1: What are the research trends, gaps and insight of domestic violence law in global perspective according to the year of publication?

RQ2: What are the top 10 cited articles of domestic violence law in global perspective?

RQ3: Which are the top 10 countries on domestic violence law in global perspective based on number of publication?

RQ4: What are the popular keywords related to domestic violence law in global perspective?

RQ5: What are co-authorship by countries' collaboration of domestic violence law in global perspective?

## METHODOLOGY

Bibliometrics encompasses the systematic collection, organisation, and analysis of bibliographic data derived from scientific publications [10], [11], [12] for a variety of reasons, such as to uncover emerging trends in article and journal, collaboration patterns, and research constituents or to explore the intellectual structure of a specific domain in the extant literature [13]. In addition to generating descriptive indicators such as core journals, publication chronology, and leading contributors [14], the field incorporates advanced analytical techniques, including document co-citation analysis, which enables deeper examination of conceptual structures within a research domain. A rigorous literature review therefore requires a deliberate and iterative process involving the refinement of keywords, structured searching, and analytical synthesis, all of which contribute to the development of a comprehensive and reliable bibliographic foundation [15]. Guided by this methodological rationale, the present study concentrated on high-impact publications, recognising their value in illuminating influential theoretical perspectives that shape disciplinary progress. To ensure accuracy and consistency, SCOPUS was selected as the primary database for data retrieval due to its established reliability and extensive coverage [16], [17], [18]. Quality control was maintained by restricting the dataset to peer-reviewed journal articles, intentionally excluding books and lecture notes [19]. Publications from 1995 to November 2025 related to domestic violence law in global perspective were subsequently extracted from Elsevier's Scopus for detailed analysis.

### Data search strategy

The search strategy was constructed using the Scopus advanced search function, guided by a structured and replicable formulation that ensures precision in identifying literature directly related to domestic violence within legal and regulatory contexts. The final search string, TITLE ( domestic violence AND ( law OR rule OR ruling

OR polic\* OR legal OR regulat\* OR governance OR princip\* OR convention OR ethic\* ) ) AND PUBYEAR > 1994 AND PUBYEAR < 2026 AND ( LIMIT-TO ( LANGUAGE , "English" ) ), was designed to capture studies where domestic violence and legal dimensions appear explicitly in the publication title, thereby ensuring strong topical relevance. The Boolean operator AND was employed to narrow the focus, while the grouped legal terminologies broadened the scope sufficiently to include research addressing legal rules, policy measures, governance structures, principles, conventions, and ethical considerations. The use of the truncation symbol in polic\* and regulat\* allowed the retrieval of all morphological variations, which is consistent with sound bibliometric search practice. The temporal filter restricting publications to the period from 1995 to 2025 was imposed to ensure that the dataset reflects contemporary legal scholarship and evolving global frameworks in domestic violence legislation over the last three decades. The limitation to English language publications was applied to maintain consistency in interpretability and analytical comparison, although it is acknowledged that this may exclude relevant regional scholarship published in other languages. The initial retrieval yielded 1144 documents, confirming that domestic violence law has sustained interdisciplinary attention across legal studies, social sciences, public policy, and human rights scholarship. Subsequently, a screening process was implemented using clear inclusion and exclusion criteria. The inclusion criteria admitted studies published between 1995 and 2025 and written in English, while the exclusion criteria removed studies published before 1995 and those written in languages other than English. This screening step is essential to ensure that the final dataset aligns with both methodological coherence and research objectives. After applying these criteria, the final number of documents was reduced to 1053, representing a refined and focused corpus suitable for bibliometric analysis, thematic exploration, and conceptual mapping. This reduction indicates that a small proportion of papers fell outside the defined parameters, reflecting a relatively clean and well-structured initial dataset. Overall, the search and screening process demonstrates a rigorous approach to data collection, grounded in transparent methodological justification, thereby enabling a reliable foundation for subsequent statistical analyses, trend identification, and visualisation work using numerous variables including the bibliometric tools like OpenRefine and VOSviewer and scientific databases like Google Scholar and Scopus Analyzer [20].

**Table 1.** The search string

Source	Search string
Scopus	TITLE ( domestic violence AND ( law OR rule OR ruling OR polic* OR legal OR regulat* OR governance OR princip* OR convention OR ethic* ) ) Access date: November 2025

**Table 2.** The selection criterion of searching

Criterion	Inclusion	Exclusion
Language	English	Non-English
Time line	1995 – 2025	< 1995 > 2025

### Data analysis

VOSviewer, created by Nees Jan van Eck and Ludo Waltman at Leiden University in the Netherlands [21], [22], has become a central tool in contemporary bibliometric research owing to its specialised capacity to visualise and analyse scientific literature. The software is designed with an accessible and interactive interface that enables users to generate detailed network representations, clustering outputs, and density visualisations. These features allow researchers to uncover structural patterns, intellectual associations, and thematic developments within complex scholarly domains. Its range of applications covers co-authorship analysis, co-citation mapping, and

keyword co-occurrence modelling, offering a multidimensional view of how academic knowledge evolves and circulates. Ongoing methodological improvements have strengthened its reliability and extended its usability across different levels of research expertise, while its compatibility with diverse bibliometric databases ensures broad analytical coverage.

A defining strength of VOSviewer lies in its ability to convert large and intricate datasets into coherent visual formats that support the identification of thematic clusters, conceptual linkages, and citation structures. This ability distinguishes the software from more conventional bibliometric tools, as it balances analytical rigor with an emphasis on interpretability. Its adaptability across disciplines, along with a strong focus on network and density visualisation, allows research landscapes to be examined with clarity, precision, and conceptual depth. These attributes have cemented VOSviewer's position as a leading platform in bibliometric mapping, providing researchers with flexible and customisable tools for interrogating structural relationships within their fields.

For the present study, bibliometric data covering publication year, title, author name, journal, citation count, and keywords were extracted in PlainText format from the Scopus database for the period spanning 1995 to November 2025. These data were processed using VOSviewer version 1.6.20, applying network clustering and mapping techniques to construct comprehensive knowledge structures. Methodologically, VOSviewer offers an alternative to the Multidimensional Scaling approach by positioning items within low dimensional spaces, where spatial distance reflects the degree of similarity or relatedness between them (van Eck and Waltman, 2010b). Although conceptually close to MDS Appio et al., (2014), VOSviewer employs a more sophisticated normalisation method for co-occurrence frequencies, specifically the association strength (AS<sub>ij</sub>), defined as [24]:

$$AS_{ij} = \frac{C_{ij}}{w_i w_j}$$

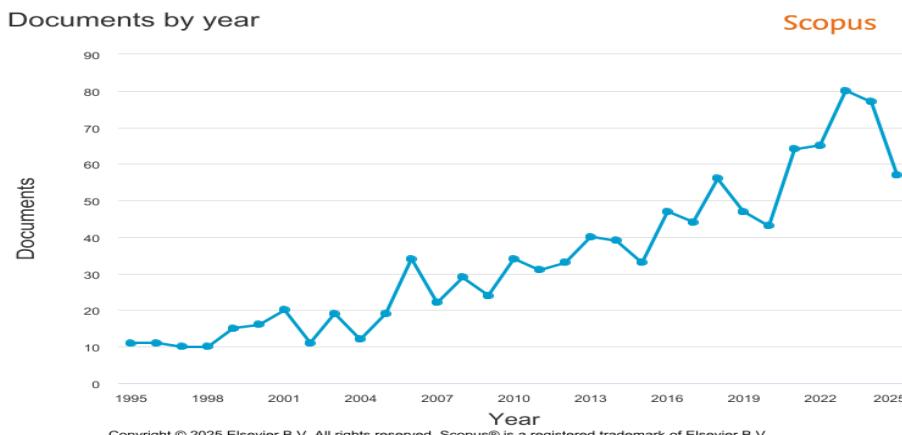
In this formula,  $C_{ij}$  denotes the observed co-occurrence between items  $i$  and  $j$ , while  $w_i$  and  $w_j$  represent their respective occurrence frequencies. This metric is based on the proportional relationship between observed and expected co-occurrences under an assumption of statistical independence [24]. This methodological refinement enhances the precision and interpretability of bibliometric mapping, allowing VOSviewer to reveal latent intellectual structures that underpin scholarly communication and disciplinary development.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This section deliberates on each of the five research questions of the study.

### Research Question 1: What are the research trends, gaps and insight of domestic violence law in global perspective according to the year of publication?

The publication trend on "domestic violence law in global perspective" between 1995 and 2025 demonstrates a gradual but fluctuating growth in scholarly attention as shown in **Figure 2**.



**Figure 2.** Publication trend by year of publication

The annual publication trend from 1995 to 2025 demonstrates a gradual but clear expansion of scholarly interest in domestic violence law in global perspective, with notable shifts across three distinct periods. The early stage, from 1995 to 2004, is characterised by consistently low publication activity, with annual outputs ranging from ten to twenty papers, such as in 1998 (10 documents), 1999 (15 documents), and 2001 (20 documents). This limited production reflects the relatively early development of domestic violence research as a formalised legal and policy field, particularly in global comparative contexts. During this period, many countries were only beginning to institutionalise legal reforms, and international mechanisms addressing gender-based violence were still emerging. The second stage, spanning 2005 to 2016, shows a gradual rise and stabilisation of publication numbers, with outputs generally ranging between nineteen and forty-seven. Years such as 2006 (34 documents), 2010 (34 documents), 2013 (40 documents), and 2016 (47 documents) illustrate this consolidation. This pattern aligns with the global expansion of human rights frameworks, the diffusion of specialised legislation, and the growing role of cross-country analysis and international cooperation in shaping research agendas.

The third and most pronounced stage, from 2017 to 2025, shows a marked acceleration in scholarly production, reaching unprecedented annual peaks. The period between 2018 and 2022 displays consistently high counts, including 2018 (56 documents), 2021 (64 documents), and 2022 (65 documents), indicating strengthened academic engagement driven by increased awareness of gender discrimination, gender-based violence, and the legal frameworks designed to address these issues. The surge continues into 2023 (80 documents) and 2024 (77 documents), which represent the highest outputs in the dataset. These peaks correspond with heightened global attention to domestic violence during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, when numerous studies documented rising case numbers and legal-system pressures across countries. The slight decline in 2025 (57 documents) remains comparatively high and may reflect incomplete indexing for the year rather than an actual decrease in research activity. Overall, the trend illustrates the progressive institutionalisation of domestic violence law as a significant domain within global legal scholarship, shaped by evolving international norms, sustained advocacy efforts, and the increasing use of bibliometric and cross-country analytical approaches.

### **Research Question 2: What are the top 10 cited articles of domestic violence law in global perspective?**

Produced below in **Table 3** is the list of top 10 cited articles on the topic of domestic violence law in global perspective.

Table 3: Top 10 cited articles

Authors	Title	Year	Source title	Citation count
Ellsberg, M.; Heise, L.; Peña, R.; Agurto, S.; Winkvist, A.	Researching domestic violence against women: Methodological and ethical considerations	2001	Studies in Family Planning	454
Felson, R.B.; Messner, S.F.; Hoskin, A.W.; Deane, G.	Reasons for reporting and not reporting domestic violence to the police	2002	Criminology	329
Felson, R.B.; Paré, P.-P.	The reporting of domestic violence and sexual assault by nonstrangers to the police	2005	Journal of Marriage and Family	290
Dutton, D.G.; Corvo, K.	Transforming a flawed policy: A call to revive psychology and science in domestic violence research and practice	2006	Aggression and Violent Behavior	220
Ellsberg, M.; Heise, L.	Bearing witness: Ethics in domestic violence research	2002	The Lancet	207

Hoyle, C.; Sanders, A.	Police response to domestic violence: From victim choice to victim empowerment?	2000	British Journal of Criminology	205
Bachman, R.; Coker, A.L.	Police involvement in domestic violence: The interactive effects of victim injury, offender's history of violence, and race	1995	Violence and Victims	193
Vigdor, E.R.; Mercy, J.A.	Do laws restricting access to firearms by domestic violence offenders prevent intimate partner homicide?	2006	Evaluation Review	183
Baker, C.K.; Billhardt, K.A.; Warren, J.; Rollins, C.; Glass, N.E.	Domestic violence, housing instability, and homelessness: A review of housing policies and program practices for meeting the needs of survivors	2010	Aggression and Violent Behavior	172
Cavanaugh, M.M.; Gelles, R.J.	The utility of male domestic violence offender typologies: New directions for research, policy, and practice	2005	Journal of Interpersonal Violence	167

The citation pattern of the ten most influential papers on domestic violence law in global perspective reflects the dominance of foundational studies that defined methodological standards, shaped legal debates, and guided policy reforms across jurisdictions. The most cited article, Ellsberg et al. (2001) with 454 citations, provides a methodological and ethical framework for researching violence against women, which has become a cornerstone reference in global public health and legal scholarship. Similarly, Felson et al. (2002) with 329 citations, and Felson & Paré (2005) with 290 citations, examine the dynamics of police reporting, contributing empirical clarity to an issue central to law enforcement and policy design. High citations for these works indicate sustained relevance, as reporting patterns remain pivotal for evaluating the effectiveness of legal responses. Equally significant is the ethical discourse advanced by Ellsberg & Heise (2002) cited 207 times, which continues to inform institutional review protocols for studies involving vulnerable populations. Hoyle & Sanders (2000) with 205 citations, also shape understanding of police engagement, particularly concerning the shift from victim choice to victim empowerment. These articles achieve high citation counts because they address core methodological, ethical, and operational challenges that cut across legal systems.

The remaining highly cited works demonstrate growing scholarly engagement with specific legal and policy mechanisms that influence domestic violence outcomes. Bachman & Coker (1995) for example cited 193 times, illustrate the long-standing academic interest in understanding how victim injury, offender history, and race influence police behaviour. Vigdor & Mercy (2006) with 183 citations provide evidence on firearm restrictions, a policy area extensively debated in both criminology and legal reform literature. Papers such as Baker et al. (2010) cited 172 times, extend the discourse to housing instability and homelessness, broadening the understanding of structural barriers that intersect with legal protection. Cavanaugh & Gelles (2005) with 167 citations, further advance the field by examining offender typologies, which has informed rehabilitation programmes and judicial decision-making. Collectively, these citation patterns show that research which integrates empirical analysis with legal and policy implications tends to attract sustained scholarly attention. The consistent citations across articles from different decades suggest that domestic violence law remains a multidisciplinary field, with long-term reliance on seminal works that continue to underpin contemporary debates on policing, victim protection, and legislative effectiveness.

**Research Question 3: Which are the top 10 countries on domestic violence law in global perspective based on number of publication?**

The following **Figure 3** reveals the top 10 countries based on number of publication in the area of domestic violence law in global perspective.

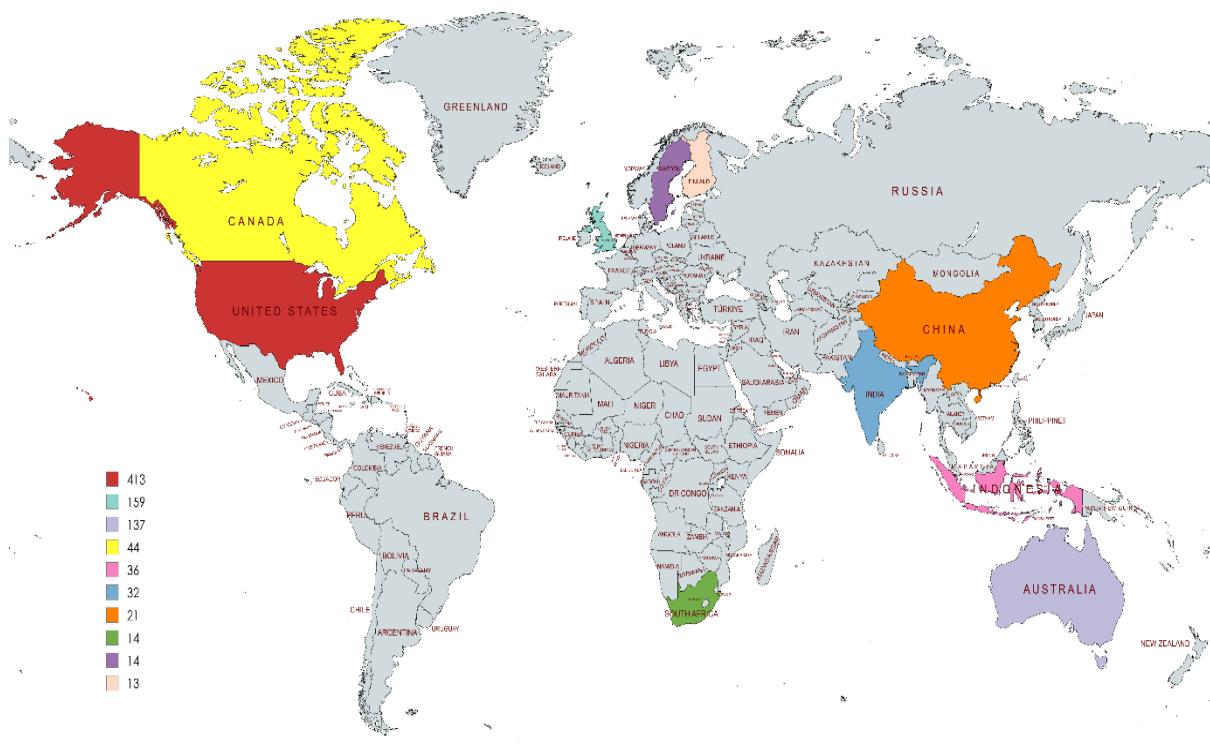


Figure 3. Top 10 countries based on number of publications

The distribution of publications across the top ten contributing countries reveals a clear concentration of research output in high income and Anglophone jurisdictions, led overwhelmingly by the United States with 413 publications. This dominance reflects the country's extensive academic infrastructure, long standing criminological and public health research traditions, and sustained policy debates concerning domestic violence law. The United Kingdom follows with 159 publications, supported by robust socio legal scholarship and significant government investment in research on gender-based violence. Australia, with 137 publications, similarly demonstrates strong engagement, consistent with its comprehensive domestic violence legislative reforms and active research networks. Canada's contribution of 44 publications also aligns with its national emphasis on victim rights, Indigenous justice concerns, and policy driven research agendas. These countries share established research ecosystems, sizeable academic communities, and extensive funding support, which collectively underpin their leading positions in publication output.

The remaining countries display more diverse regional and socio-economic contexts, each shaped by local legal frameworks and evolving policy priorities. Indonesia records 36 publications, reflecting increasing scholarly attention to domestic violence following the enactment of national legislation and growing gender rights advocacy. India, with 32 publications, contributes to the field through its complex legal landscape, characterised by ongoing debates on women's rights, protection laws, and enforcement challenges. China, with 21 publications, demonstrates rising interest following recent legislative reforms and increased visibility of domestic violence in public discourse. South Africa's 14 publications correspond to its broader research efforts addressing gender-based violence within a post-apartheid constitutional framework, while Sweden and Finland, each with 14 and 13 publications respectively, reflect the strong Nordic tradition of social welfare, gender equality policy, and empirical socio legal research. Together, these contributions illustrate how national legal reform trajectories, socio political contexts, and academic infrastructures shape global research productivity in domestic violence law.

**Research Question 4: What are the popular keywords related to domestic violence law in global perspective?**

The following **Figure 4** highlights the main keywords used by the authors related to the study of domestic violence law in global perspective.

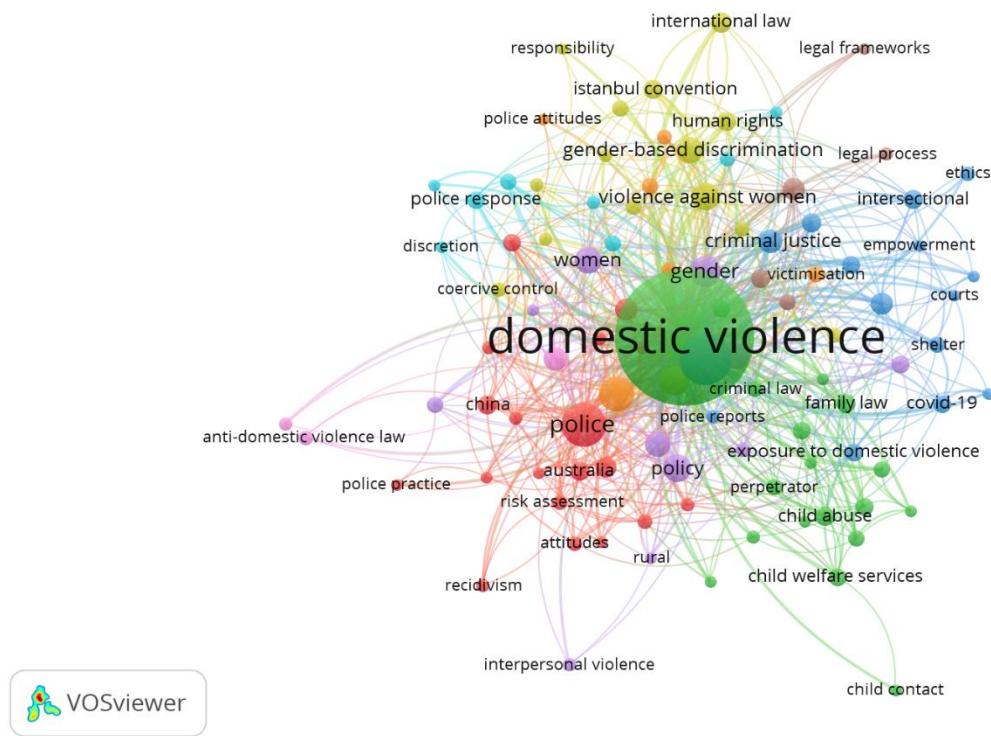


Figure 4: Network visualisation map of keywords' co-occurrence

Co-occurrence analysis of author keywords in VOSviewer identifies how frequently specific terms appear together across the dataset, enabling the detection of thematic relationships and conceptual structures within the field. Through its spatial mapping, VOSviewer positions keywords in proximity based on their co-occurrence strength, allowing researchers to visualise how research topics cluster around shared intellectual foundations. For this study, the full counting method was applied, meaning each co-occurrence was counted equally, and a minimum threshold of five occurrences was set. Out of 1315 total keywords, 100 met this threshold, and a minimum cluster size of five generated nine distinct clusters. These settings ensure that only conceptually significant and frequently recurring terms shape the network, producing a map that represents core themes in domestic violence law research with analytical clarity. The resulting clusters reflect major research concentrations, beginning with dominant terms such as domestic violence (542 occurrences, 837 links) and intimate partner violence (76 occurrences, 174 links), which anchor the field and demonstrate their central role in legal and interdisciplinary scholarship.

The findings contribute meaningfully to the body of knowledge by highlighting the multidimensional nature of research on domestic violence law, where legal, social, and criminological perspectives converge. Keywords such as police (57 occurrences, 120 links), policing (38 occurrences, 93 links), and law enforcement (14 occurrences, 39 links) indicate a strong focus on operational responses within the criminal justice system. Simultaneously, clusters containing gender (28 occurrences, 63 links), gender-based discrimination (21 occurrences, 40 links), and violence against women (23 occurrences, 57 links) show continued scholarly engagement with gendered frameworks. Themes related to children also emerge prominently through child abuse (11 occurrences, 22 links) and child protection (9 occurrences, 22 links), reflecting the legal significance of safeguarding minors. The presence of policy (23 occurrences, 51 links), human rights (12 occurrences, 31 links), international law (13 occurrences, 21 links), and the Istanbul Convention (11 occurrences, 25 links) illustrates the growing attention to global governance and international legal standards. The COVID-19 keyword (10

occurrences, 26 links) signals recent shifts in research priorities due to the pandemic's documented impact on domestic violence patterns. Collectively, these clusters demonstrate an expanding and increasingly complex research landscape, where empirical, legal, and policy-oriented studies interact to advance understanding of domestic violence law at both national and global levels.

### Research Question 5: What are co-authorship by countries' collaboration of domestic violence law in global perspective?

Produced below is **Figure 5**, depicting the network visualisation mapping of the authors' co-authorship collaboration by country.

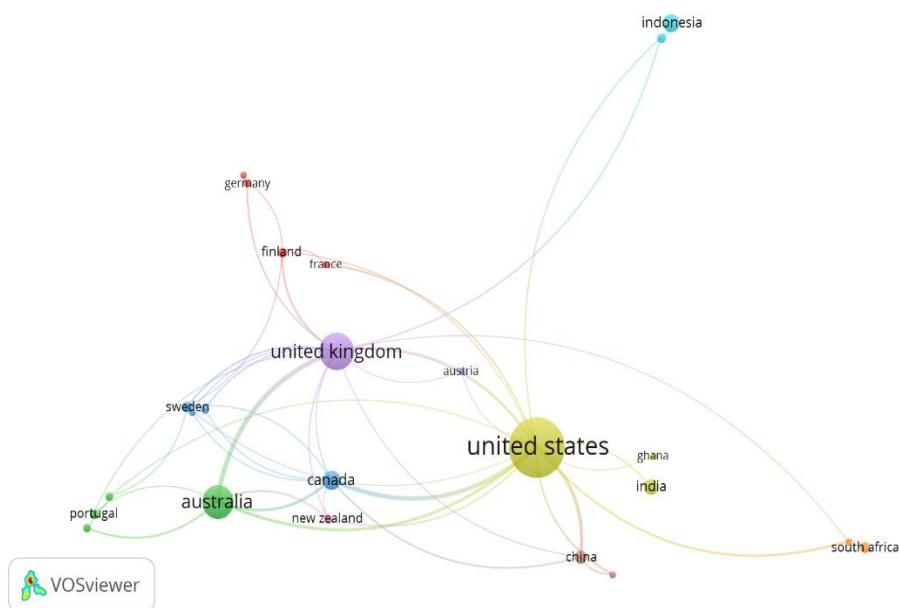


Figure 5. Network visualisation map of authors' collaboration by country

Co-authorship by country collaboration analysis in VOSviewer examines how authors affiliated with different countries work together in producing scientific publications, allowing researchers to visualise the international research networks that shape a field. Through this technique, VOSviewer positions countries closer together when they share more co-authored publications, thereby revealing patterns of collaboration, regional research alliances, and global knowledge flows. For this study, the full counting method was applied, where each international collaboration is counted equally, and a minimum publication threshold of five was used. Out of 79 countries in the dataset, 28 met this threshold, and with a minimum cluster size of five, a total of nine clusters were generated. This approach ensures that only countries with meaningful research engagement and sustained collaboration networks are represented in the visualisation, producing a structured and interpretable map of global research partnerships in domestic violence law.

The findings show a highly centralised global network dominated by high-income and research-intensive countries, indicating unequal research capacity and varying degrees of international engagement. The United States forms the strongest node with 412 publications, 10004 total link strength, and 62 collaborative links, reflecting its substantial academic infrastructure and long-standing leadership in legal, criminological, and social science research. The United Kingdom (161 publications, 2307 link strength, 46 links) and Australia (133 publications, 1798 link strength, 39 links) also play major bridging roles, connecting multiple regional clusters. Other active contributors, such as Canada (46 publications) and China (21 publications), demonstrate increasing participation in global dialogue, although with varying levels of collaboration intensity. Smaller but highly connected countries like Sweden (15 publications, 707 link strength) and Finland (13 publications, 172 link strength) show strong regional cooperation consistent with Nordic research traditions. The appearance of countries such as Indonesia (37 publications) and India (30 publications), despite lower link strengths, reflects growing scholarly engagement driven by domestic legal reforms and rising public concern regarding gender-

based violence. Overall, the collaboration network illustrates how global research on domestic violence law is shaped by both established research hubs and emerging contributors, strengthening comparative legal scholarship while highlighting disparities in international research participation.

## CONCLUSION

The purpose of this study was to map global scholarly engagement with domestic violence law in global perspective and to address key questions concerning publication trends, influential works, country contributions, thematic emphases, and collaboration patterns. The analysis reveals a steady expansion of research activity from 1995 to 2025, with notable acceleration in the last decade, reflecting growing international attention to legal responses and regulatory developments in domestic violence. The findings show that highly cited works tend to focus on methodological standards, policing responses, ethical concerns, and legislative mechanisms, indicating sustained interest in both conceptual foundations and practical challenges. The study also highlights significant geographical disparities, with research output concentrated in a small number of countries with strong legal infrastructures and established academic networks, while emerging contributions from developing regions reflect evolving policy environments and heightened public awareness. Keyword and collaboration mapping further demonstrates the multidimensional nature of this field, where legal, criminological, social, and public health perspectives intersect to form nine coherent thematic clusters.

This study contributes to the broader understanding of domestic violence law by clarifying how research has evolved over time, identifying dominant intellectual structures, and illustrating the ways in which global collaboration patterns shape knowledge production. The results provide a foundation that can support policy discussions, inform legal reform efforts, and guide practitioners seeking evidence-based approaches to prevention, protection, and enforcement. Nevertheless, several limitations remain, including reliance on a single database, exclusion of non-English publications, and potential underrepresentation of regions with limited research output. Future studies could integrate multiple databases, apply mixed-method bibliometric techniques, or examine policy impacts more directly to address gaps not covered by this analysis. Overall, the study demonstrates the value of bibliometric approaches for tracing developments in domestic violence law, offering a systematic overview that supports deeper engagement with emerging issues and encourages further scholarly exploration in this expanding field.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The author would like to express gratitude to Universiti Utara Malaysia for the resources necessary in finalising this paper.

## REFERENCES

1. "Gender symmetry in domestic violence: A substantive and methodological research review," in *The Gender of Desire: Essays on Male Sexuality*, State University of New York Press, 2005, pp. 197–216. [Online]. Available: <https://www.scopus.com/inward/record.uri?eid=2-s2.0-84899279768&partnerID=40&md5=193785f750ee7a270620dd8ce020c728>
2. C. Gomes, "Sex, Law, and Domestic Violence against Women in the Modern World," in *The Cambridge World History of Sexualities: Volume 4: Modern Sexualities*, vol. 4, Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra, Portugal: Cambridge University Press, 2024, pp. 358–380. doi: 10.1017/9781108896078.018.
3. J. Fisher, E. Lukas, A. Mavisakalyan, and J. True, "Regulation of domestic violence: a global perspective," *BMC Public Health*, vol. 25, no. 1, 2025, doi: 10.1186/s12889-025-24489-z.
4. I. Saktaganova, S. Surkova, B. Smatlayev, A. Zhussupov, and K. Abdilov, "Effectiveness of human protection from domestic violence under the administrative legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan," *Riv. di Stud. sulla Sostenibilità*, vol. 13, no. 1, pp. 279–294, 2023, doi: 10.3280/RISS2023-001-S1018.
5. H. I. Bazza, "Domestic violence and women's rights in Nigeria," *Soc. without Borders*, vol. 4, no. 2, pp. 175–192, 2009, doi: 10.1163/187219109X447467.
6. P. Pais, "Challenging the Efficacy of Ex officio Prosecution of Domestic Violence Offenses: A Comparative Analysis," in *Sexuality, Oppression and Human Rights*, TC Beirne School of Law,

University of Queensland, Australia: Brill, 2019, pp. 27–45. doi: 10.1163/9781848884243\_004.

- 7. N. Maravuakula and J. Mangubhai, “From Act to Action: Engaging with Culture and Faith to End Domestic Violence in the Pacific,” in *Gender-Based Violence in the Global South: Ideologies, Resistances, Responses, and Transformations, Human Rights and Social Development Division, The Pacific Community (SPC)*, Fiji: Taylor and Francis, 2024, pp. 205–229. doi: 10.4324/9781003350125-16.
- 8. M. Nduna, S. Mwananzi, N. N. Wekwete, and M. A. Makongoza, “Contextualizing the many faces of domestic violence: A focus on the global south,” in *The Cambridge Handbook of the International Psychology of Women*, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa: Cambridge University Press, 2020, pp. 355–371. [Online]. Available: <https://www.scopus.com/inward/record.uri?eid=2-s2.0-85146847857&partnerID=40&md5=d7abe76aef0bc0fc37f47becc0ae642>
- 9. R. Cordier, D. Chung, S. Wilkes-Gillan, and R. Speyer, “The Effectiveness of Protection Orders in Reducing Recidivism in Domestic Violence: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis,” *Trauma, Violence, Abus.*, vol. 22, no. 4, pp. 804–828, 2021, doi: 10.1177/1524838019882361.
- 10. J. L. Alves, I. B. Borges, and J. De Nadae, “Sustainability in complex projects of civil construction: Bibliometric and bibliographic review,” *Gest. e Prod.*, vol. 28, no. 4, 2021, doi: 10.1590/1806-9649-2020v28e5389.
- 11. D. S. Assyakur and E. M. Rosa, “Spiritual Leadership in Healthcare: A Bibliometric Analysis,” *J. Aisyah J. Ilmu Kesehat.*, vol. 7, no. 2, 2022, doi: 10.30604/jika.v7i2.914.
- 12. A. Verbeek, K. Debackere, M. Luwel, and E. Zimmermann, “Measuring progress and evolution in science and technology - I: The multiple uses of bibliometric indicators,” *Int. J. Manag. Rev.*, vol. 4, no. 2, pp. 179–211, 2002, doi: 10.1111/1468-2370.00083.
- 13. N. Donthu, S. Kumar, D. Mukherjee, N. Pandey, and W. M. Lim, “How to conduct a bibliometric analysis: An overview and guidelines,” *J. Bus. Res.*, vol. 133, pp. 285–296, 2021.
- 14. Y. C. J. Wu and T. Wu, “A decade of entrepreneurship education in the Asia Pacific for future directions in theory and practice,” 2017. doi: 10.1108/MD-05-2017-0518.
- 15. B. Fahimnia, J. Sarkis, and H. Davarzani, “Green supply chain management: A review and bibliometric analysis,” 2015. doi: 10.1016/j.ijpe.2015.01.003.
- 16. A. Al-Khoury et al., “Intellectual Capital History and Trends: A Bibliometric Analysis Using Scopus Database,” *Sustain.*, vol. 14, no. 18, 2022, doi: 10.3390/su141811615.
- 17. G. di Stefano, M. Peteraf, and G. Veronay, “Dynamic capabilities deconstructed: A bibliographic investigation into the origins, development, and future directions of the research domain,” *Ind. Corp. Chang.*, vol. 19, no. 4, pp. 1187–1204, 2010, doi: 10.1093/icc/dtq027.
- 18. G. P. Khiste and R. R. Paithankar, “Analysis of Bibliometric term in Scopus,” *Int. Res. J.*, vol. 01, no. 32, pp. 78–83, 2017.
- 19. D. Gu, T. Li, X. Wang, X. Yang, and Z. Yu, “Visualizing the intellectual structure and evolution of electronic health and telemedicine research,” *Int. J. Med. Inform.*, vol. 130, 2019, doi: 10.1016/j.ijmedinf.2019.08.007.
- 20. I. Passas, “Bibliometric analysis: the main steps,” *Encyclopedia*, vol. 4, no. 2, 2024.
- 21. N. J. van Eck and L. Waltman, “Citation-based clustering of publications using CitNetExplorer and VOSviewer,” *Scientometrics*, vol. 111, no. 2, pp. 1053–1070, 2017, doi: 10.1007/s11192-017-2300-7.
- 22. N. J. van Eck and L. Waltman, “Software survey: VOSviewer, a computer program for bibliometric mapping,” *Scientometrics*, vol. 84, no. 2, pp. 523–538, 2010, doi: 10.1007/s11192-009-0146-3.
- 23. F. P. Appio, F. Cesaroni, and A. Di Minin, “Visualizing the structure and bridges of the intellectual property management and strategy literature: a document co-citation analysis,” *Scientometrics*, vol. 101, no. 1, pp. 623–661, 2014, doi: 10.1007/s11192-014-1329-0.
- 24. N. J. Van Eck and L. Waltman, “Bibliometric mapping of the computational intelligence field,” in *International Journal of Uncertainty, Fuzziness and Knowledge-Based Systems*, 2007, pp. 625–645. doi: 10.1142/S0218488507004911.
- 25. M. Ellsberg, L. Heise, R. Peña, S. Agurto, and A. Winkvist, “Researching domestic violence against women: Methodological and ethical considerations,” *Stud. Fam. Plann.*, vol. 32, no. 1, pp. 1–16, 2001, doi: 10.1111/j.1728-4465.2001.00001.x.
- 26. [26] R. B. Felson, S. F. Messner, A. W. Hoskin, and G. Deane, “Reasons for reporting and not reporting domestic violence to the police,” *Criminology*, vol. 40, no. 3, pp. 617–648, 2002, doi:

---

10.1111/j.1745-9125.2002.tb00968.x.

27. R. B. Felson and P.-P. Paré, "The reporting of domestic violence and sexual assault by nonstrangers to the police," *J. Marriage Fam.*, vol. 67, no. 3, pp. 597–610, 2005, doi: 10.1111/j.1741-3737.2005.00156.x.
28. M. Ellsberg and L. Heise, "Bearing witness: Ethics in domestic violence research," *Lancet*, vol. 359, no. 9317, pp. 1599–1604, 2002, doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(02)08521-5.
29. C. Hoyle and A. Sanders, "Police response to domestic violence: From victim choice to victim empowerment?," *Br. J. Criminol.*, vol. 40, no. 1, pp. 14–36, 2000, doi: 10.1093/bjc/40.1.14.
30. R. Bachman and A. L. Coker, "Police involvement in domestic violence: The interactive effects of victim injury, offender's history of violence, and race," *Violence Vict.*, vol. 10, no. 2, pp. 91–106, 1995, doi: 10.1891/0886-6708.10.2.91.
31. E. R. Vigdor and J. A. Mercy, "Do laws restricting access to firearms by domestic violence offenders prevent intimate partner homicide?," *Eval. Rev.*, vol. 30, no. 3, pp. 313–346, 2006, doi: 10.1177/0193841X06287307.
32. C. K. Baker, K. A. Billhardt, J. Warren, C. Rollins, and N. E. Glass, "Domestic violence, housing instability, and homelessness: A review of housing policies and program practices for meeting the needs of survivors," *Aggress. Violent Behav.*, vol. 15, no. 6, pp. 430–439, 2010, doi: 10.1016/j.avb.2010.07.005.
33. M. M. Cavanaugh and R. J. Gelles, "The utility of male domestic violence offender typologies: New directions for research, policy, and practice," *J. Interpers. Violence*, vol. 20, no. 2, pp. 155–166, 2005, doi: 10.1177/0886260504268763.