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Decolonizing ‘Femicide’ in International Frameworks: A Decolonial Feminist Approach

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The term femicide is currently defined in international legal and political frameworks as “the killing of women and girls because of their gender.” This definition, while seemingly straightforward, is limited by the way colonial logic constructs gender. By deconstructing colonial logic, it becomes evident that the gender binary itself, is a colonial attempt to dehumanize the group which it terms ‘Indigenous women.’ My research evaluates solutions to decolonizing ‘femicide’ in international frameworks through an extensive literature review of decolonial feminist scholarship. The only solution to observing femicide clearly, is to deconstruct the category based logic of colonial modernity. In seeing beyond what is accepted as common sense, it becomes clear that race, gender, class, and space work congruously to construct the frame that sees Indigenous women as inhuman and disposable in colonial societies.