



Violence Against Women with Special Reference to Domestic Violence

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ABSTRACT

Domestic violence, or more generally, violence against women, is one type of abuse, and it includes physical aggression, sexual abuse, psychological assault, and financial injustice. Even with legal frameworks such as the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005, the realization of non-violence remains elusive because of social, cultural, and institutional restrictions affecting reporting and seeking justice. The current study aims to discuss the idea of domestic violence in the context of an Indian sociocultural setting to understand the barriers survivors face at the micro level, namely sanctions, nurtured roles, and countermeasures. To analyze norms and practices expected in combating violence against women, the following legal instruments are used: Legal instruments such as the CEDAW are used to examine norms and practices expected in the fight against violence against women. Also, included some key case laws that have broadened the definition of domestic violence to include those in live-in relationships and those who suffer from emotional abuse. A cross-jurisdictional analysis with other jurisdictions reveals the scope for development within Indian law concerning the recognition of coercive control and enforcement measures. The paper calls for extensive changes, including newly established domestic violence courts, enhanced financial support of protective services, and information interventions. The first three steps are accompanied by increased awareness and training for police officers and healthcare employees to build a more helpful attitude of society toward victims. Thus, this research shakes the efforts to point out that the problem of domestic violence requires a comprehensive, nuanced strategy based on legal changes and social and institutional development.

Keywords: Violence against women, domestic violence, coercive control, CEDAW, empowerment

Introduction

Violence against women is regarded as any act of violence based on gender performing physical, sexual, psychological, or economic harm or threat of the same, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty in private as well as in public spheres. It is an umbrella of something prevalent where human rights are violated in one way or another and is a violation of human rights in different forms such as physical violence, rape, psychological torment, and economic violence. Indian culture and structure Women are frequently victims of violence, and it is challenging to eradicate that culture's omnipresent violence since it is so firmly entrenched in the culture. When it comes to sexual and other kinds of violence, the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) paints a very bleak picture—fully one-quarter of married women reported having experienced some form of spousal violence. The cultural understanding of the acceptability of the abuse within the family and a lack of legal protection for women living in those abusive homes worsens it and requires special attention on the part of the legal and social systems. For instance, the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women encourages state parties to fight violence against women; more states and cultures need to be pressured into developing stricter laws and changing their cultures.

This research seeks to focus its exploration on the problem of Domestic Violence as a subtype of Violence Against Women. Family violence involves the use of force and can be physical, psychological, emotional, economic, as well as sexual violence, usually by spouses or family members. Though there is legislation that includes the 'Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005', domestic violence is not reported, and victims experience shame and repression by the legal system. Therefore, the focus of this study is broader than statutory examination; this study will also look at cultural details that justify violence and how legal mechanisms help in tackling this problem. In this study, the analysis of judicial and statutory law approaches is used to give an enriched understanding of the concept of domestic violence and suggest change that would provide better protection for women.

The primary research questions this study addresses are: To what extent do the present legal provisions in India help to address and prevent domestic violence against women?" The paper will also explore sub-questions, such as Research questions that can be used such as, "What hinders the Domestic Violence survivors from seeking justice?" and "What measures will promote improvements in the existing legal protection of women?" They include an assessment of the current laws and legislation, scrutiny of critical case laws, and suggesting recommendations about improvements in the legislation against domestic violence. Answering these questions, the paper will help to enhance the discussion regarding the further enhancement of legal protection for women suffering from domestic violence.

This study is systematically developed to give an overview of domestic violence against women. They include: In the first chapter there is an extensive description of violence against women, in which the context of domestic violence as a specific subject is outlined. After the introduction, the paper will discuss the historical and legal aspects of domestic violence law in India, including the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005. The others will continue its consideration of important judicial decisions under the law; it will also study recent important judgments like "*Indra Sarma v. V.K.V. Sarma*"¹ which provides a judicial interpretation of the definition 'Domestic Relationships'. The following sections will therefore focus on the difficulties that the victims encounter while seeking justice; this includes reporting; stigmatization; and legal redress mechanisms. Last, the paper will present legal and policy reforms toward enhancing the legal regime against domestic violence, followed by recommendations for future studies and advocacy.

Conceptual Framework and Forms of Domestic Violence

Almost everyone knows that domestic violence means using any degree of violence or force in a domestic context that hurts the targeted person. In a legal context, it refers to the repeated use of physical force, coercion, threats, or intimidation by one partner against the other in an intimate relationship. The "Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005" is more general to includes different types of abuse, such as physical, emotional, sexual, and economic. Physical abuse comprises aggressiveness that puts the welfare of the victim in real physical peril, including attempts with or without weapons or threatening to hit or throw an object at the recipient. The more subtle forms of abuse are yelling at the victim, threatening to harm them or a loved one, ignoring or shutting her off from family and friends, or any other behavior designed to undermine the victim's self-worth. Sexual assault means one or more acts of a sexual nature against the victim against their will and therefore against their consent. The economic abuse, controls the financial resources of the victim, thereby denying him/her a chance to get an independent source of income and, hence unable to leave the abusive home, implying the warning. The DV Act, 2005 goes a notch higher than the traditional definition of domestic violence as physical assault and instead includes other forms in its legal framework to protect women in domestic relationships.²

Cultural, Social, and Legal Perspectives on Domestic Violence

Domestic violence means using any degree of violence or force in a domestic context that hurts the targeted person. In a legal context, it refers to the repeated use of physical force, coercion, threats, or intimidation by one partner against the other in an intimate relationship. The "Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005" is more general to includes different types of abuse, such as physical, emotional, sexual, and economic. Physical abuse comprises aggressiveness that puts the welfare of the victim in real physical peril, including attempts with or without weapons or threatening to hit or throw an object at the recipient. The more subtle forms of abuse are yelling at the victim, threatening to harm them or a loved one, ignoring or shutting her off from family and friends, or any other behavior designed to undermine the victim's self-worth. Sexual assault means one or more acts of a sexual nature against the victim against their will and therefore against their consent. The economic abuse, controls the financial resources of the victim, thereby denying him/her a chance to get an independent source of income and, hence unable to leave the abusive home, implying the warning. The DV Act, 2005 goes a notch higher than the traditional definition of domestic violence as physical assault and instead includes other forms in its legal framework to protect women in domestic relationships.³

Impact of Domestic Violence on Women

The impact of domestic violence comprises not only the physical aspect but also the psychological, economic, and social implications the victim has to face. For psyche victims' long-term ill effects such as depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and suicidal tendencies. Most forms of abuse are silent and include such tactics as verbal, emotional, sexual, psychological, and domestic abuse; hence, they are hard to recognize or seek assistance. Domestic violence is economically draining; the perpetrator may deny the victim access to her earnings or in turn, lock her out of employment so that she cannot fend for herself and eventually escape from the violence. Nevertheless, this economic loss is more compounded by advocacy expenses for protection or divorce. The social repercussions may also be deemed pertinent since exhibits of domestic violence may entail the victim in social rejection and shame, making mostly most of them refrain from speaking out or even escaping from the violent partner. As in the case of "*Vivek Sharma v. State of Haryana*"⁴, the courts recognized that the negative effects of domestic violence were not only manifested in the physical and psychological aspects of the life of the victim but also in every phase of the lives of women and that the societal problem of domestic violence required a total solution that included legal remedy, psychological recovery, and economic rehabilitation for the victims. The complex effects of domestic violence prove that it is necessary to adopt numerous legal measures for women's rights promotion and protection as well as social programs combating this phenomenon.⁵

¹ (2013) 15 SCC 755.

² Conceptual Framework for Family and Domestic Violence, *available at*: <https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Products/F346821A88ED5F6ACA2575B70017631> (last visited on October 15, 2024).

³ Shalu Nigam, *Women and Domestic Violence Law in India: A Quest for Justice* 202 (Routledge India, London, 1st edn., 2019).

⁴ [2019] SC 343.

⁵ Ana L. Rodriguez, Dawn P. Stephens, Eric Brewe, I. Ramarao, Prakash Madhivanan, "A Network Analysis of Domestic Violence Beliefs Among Young Adults in India", 36 *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* NP12041 (2021).

Legal Framework Addressing Domestic Violence

Globally, several conventions and treaties serve as a basis for combating violence against women, including domestic violence. One of the major international human rights treaties intended to eliminate discrimination and violence against women and girls is the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discriminations Against Women (CEDAW), which was adopted in the 1979 General Assembly. CEDAW considers domestic violence as a human rights abuse to women and compels nations to address violence against women to provide justice and appropriate redress to women survivors of violence. According to the CEDAW Committee's General Recommendation No. 19, the state has to fulfil all feasible measures to fight violence against women. These measures include passing and implementing domestic laws as measures against various types of violence, offering assistance for those who have become victims of violence, as well as offering legal training for the legal and police workforce. Other international instruments also include the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which also call for the need for effective national strategies to address domestic violence. This work intends to analyze how India, through its accession, meets the requirements of CEDAW and other international treaties on women as well as make policies and laws of the country to duly protect the Domestic Violence Act 2005 against women.⁶

Domestic Legal Framework: India

The documentary is based on the Indian law known as the "Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, of 2005." Otherwise known as the DV Act, 2005. Unlike some other bills, the Act broadly defines domestic violence as physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, as well as economic abuse. This broad definition alerts us to the fact that proximate antecedents of intimate partner violence apply to women and consequently offer a broader legal remedy for them. According to Section 3 of the DV Act, 2005, domestic violence is the actual act or mere attempt to commit an act or omission that endangers or has a probability of endangering the woman's physical or mental health. The Act aims at having provisions for protection, residence, monetary relief, and custody to protect the victim by offering by a magistrate in Favor of the victim. Protection Officers are provided under "Section 8 of the DV Act, 2005" and are responsible for helping the victim in filing a complaint, then seeking medical attention, and then seeking legal remedy. The DV Act, 2005 also entitles the courts to compel respondents to adhere to an order through punitive consequences that are also effective mechanisms to prevent domestic violence.⁷

Other relevant legislation

Apart from the DV Act, 2005, the Indian laws deal with the issue of domestic violence in a way that offers additional legal perspectives. "Section 85 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023," earlier known as the Indian Penal Code, deals with cruelty by the husband or his relatives against the wife. The provision enumerates physical and mental harassment, especially in connection with dowry, as well as prescribes up to three years imprisonment besides fines. Every civilized society provides the criminalization of cruelty as a way of discouraging the act and ensuring that the victims can get justice. This framework also gets support from the "Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961" because it makes it illegal to both give and receive dowry, one of the leading causes of spouse abuse in India. However, criticisms concerning the abuse of "Section 85 of BNS, 2023" have fuelled calls for reform, which is desirable and testifies to constructive measures to assist the victims without compromising the degree of protection against bogus complaints.⁸

Comparison with Legal Frameworks in Other Jurisdictions

Comparing the laws of different jurisdictions, the author shows that countries do not approach the issue in the same way due to differences in culture, social norms, and legal traditions. This is occasioned by the fact that domestic violence laws in the United States are mostly state-specific, though most states have comprehensive legislation providing both criminal and civil redress. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) is a federal statute meant to augment state laws; it includes financial support for victims and programs, attorneys, and police. VAWA also has a critical approach to domestic violence in terms of coordinated community response. On the other hand, the UK's Domestic Abuse Act 2021 provides a single piece of legislation for the country, the UK government acknowledging various types of abuse as separate criminal elements, including controlling and coercive behaviours. It brought into operation DAPOs to facilitate efficient and effective legal measures to be taken and legal assistance to be provided to the victims. The UK law has identified coercive control as a separate category of abuse. This is a progressive step that countries such as India can follow. Broadly, India's DV Act, 2005 has a definition of domestic violence that is inclusive of different types of abuse; the legislation could be improved, however, by the more explicit inclusion of coercive control. It also emphasizes the trends of domestic violence legislation and the transferability to enhance legal responses to domestic violence across jurisdictions.⁹

⁶ Indira Jaising, *Handbook on Law of Domestic Violence* 145 (Lexis Nexis, Delhi, 2nd edn., 2009).

⁷ Biswajit Ghosh, Tanima Choudhuri, "Legal Protection Against Domestic Violence in India: Scope and Limitations", 26 *Journal of Family Violence* 319 (2011).

⁸ Lucie E. Klencakova, Maria Pentaraki, Claire McManus, "The Impact of Intimate Partner Violence on Young Women's Educational Well-Being: A Systematic Review of Literature", 24 *Trauma, Violence, and Abuse* 1172 (2023).

⁹ Jassimrat K. Bhatia, Comparative Analysis of the Prevalence of Domestic Violence in India, Basis the NFHS 2015-16 and 2019-21, available at: https://terra-docs.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/IJHSR/Articles/volume5-issue7/IJHSR_2023_57_83.pdf (last visited on October 15, 2024).

Judicial Approach to Domestic Violence Cases

Since this definition has emerged out of interpreting statutes, the Indian judiciary has had a huge part to play in the legal provisions concerning domestic violence. There is one case landmark, and that is "*Indra Sarma v. V.K.V. Sarma*"¹⁰, where the Supreme Court of India has dealt with the provision of quashing of Section 498A of the IPC and cruelty in marriage-like relationships where the respondent was living with the appellant as a husband and wife. The Court went further and included women in live-in relationships under the umbrella of protection offered under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 by defining live-in relationships as relationships like marriage. This judgment was particularly important as it also established women in nonmarital domestic relationships have access to relief. Likewise, in "*Hiral P. Harsora v. Kusum Narottamas Harsora*"¹¹, the Supreme Court of India interfered with one of the stringent provisions of the DV Act, 2005 that confined the interpretation of the word 'respondent' only to the adult male members of a household. In addition to protecting a woman from domestic abuse from her male partner or a male family member, the Court permitted women to file complaints against other women who live with the family or are related in any way, and this was the second important aspect of expanding the Act. These are the kinds of cases that explain the judiciary's most active role in using the DV Act, 2005 to provide a broader definition of protection for women under domestic violence.

Judicial Interpretation and Evolving Standards

While analysing the role of conceptual change in the Indian courts, judicial interpretation can be seen to be dynamically contributing to either implementing a broad or a narrow definition of domestic violence laws. From certain cases, one can understand that courts have accepted both emotional and economic abuse as falling squarely within the definition of 'domestic violence' under 'Section 3 of the DV Act, 2005'. In "*V.D. Bhanot v. Savita Bhanot*"¹², the honourable Supreme Court of India stated with a) stating that the Act being beneficial legislation, the provisions of DV Act, 2005 are available even to the acts of domestic violence that took place before the appointment of the Act, therefore providing relief even in such situations. This meaning was to help assist those who were abused before the law was passed to receive justice. In contrast, judicial standards have these gaps, from time to time, in as much as those standards sometimes contain inconsistencies, for instance, when the courts have acted prudently, granted a limited order, or provided several remedies but omitted certain types of abuse. Even in the apex court decision of "*D. Velusamy v. D. Patchaammal*"¹³, though the court extended legal recognition to live in relationships, principles such as minimum period of cohabitation', can lead to certain relationships being left out of the Act. The dynamics of judicial treatment of quotas as contradictory trends towards extending the legal protection area and being loyal to legal norms can be observed.

Societal and Institutional Challenges

The culture of Indian society plays a crucial role in preventing the reporting of domestic violence cases and their investigation. Culturally ingrained, male-dominated gender role perceptions leading to the need for male dominance over the female's decisions usually keep violence a domestic issue that should not be brought to the public or judiciary's attention. This cultural perception not only dissuades women from seeking medical help to address CF's health concerns, but it also perpetuates and legitimates the abuse of women by men. In most cultures, domestic violence victims suffer from social taboos when they decide to report the cases, with reasons such as being blamed for shamelessly disgracing the family or family breakup. In rural and traditional families, women are usually economically vulnerable to abuse and have poor legal or social justice remedies. The second factor that keeps victims from seeking legal justice is the fear of social rejection, as well as losing a source of income. The above players' societal barriers in reporting also fuel this argument because internal domestic matters should be addressed internally rather than through the law; hence, culprits get away easily. Thus, although protection statutes such as the "Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005" were legal instruments available for women to seek, such laws remain unused by the majority of the women being harassed due to community pressure and tradition.¹⁴

Institutional Barriers

Different institutional factors weaken the efficiency of legal protections from domestic violence. Police officers and other law enforcement agencies are key actors in handling complaints of domestic violence, but their responses are lacking, as many of them lack sensitivity training and respond slowly through bureaucratic procedures that are corrupt most of the time. Police and other related personnel do not consider domestic violence a serious issue; for this reason, they are reluctant to file FIRs or investigate the matter in good detail. Sometimes victims are advised to 'compromise' the issue rather than seeking legal recourse, and this defeats the purpose of enactment of such laws. Hospitals and the rest also remain at par under special auspices to handle domestic violence cases, as most of the medical officers may lack the know-how to deal with such cases or may refuse to document the abuse situations appropriately since such documentation may help the legal practitioners decide on the measures to undertake when disciplining the offenders. Furthermore, the lack of certain shelters for such victims and other support services exposes most women to the same abuses and makes protectant

¹⁰ (2013) 15 SCC 755.

¹¹ (2016) 10 SCC 165.

¹² (2012) 3 SCC 183.

¹³ (2010) 10 SCC 469.

¹⁴ Bushra Sabri, Abhilasha Rai, Asha Rameshkumar, "Violence Against Women in India: An Analysis of Correlates of Domestic Violence and Barriers and Facilitators of Access to Resources for Support", *19 Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work* 700 (2022).

measures under the DV Act, 2005 almost impressive. Furthermore, Protection Officers required under “Section 8 of the DV Act, 2005” help the victims in every legal proceeding; however, due to lack of resources and administrative problems, the services they provide are limited and inadequate to the real needs of the victims.¹⁵

Role of NGOs and Activists

The subject of domestic violence is actively covered by NGOs and activists who defend people’s rights to some extent as institutions fail to cope with the problem. These services consist of legal assistance, counselling, shelter, and health, social, and legal rehabilitation for the victim, critical in the recovery process and their reintegration into society. Domestic violence is addressed by such organizations as SEWA (Self Employed Women’s Association) and Snehi which help to focus people’s attention on the problem and the extent of legal support for women. It has also been activists who have vigorously participated in campaigns for legislative reforms such as the enactment of the DV Act, 2005. In this case, communities benefit from the cooperation with NGOs as they work towards changing those cultural values that give rise to domestic violence, leading to voicing out of the victims. Non-governmental bodies provide legal clinics that can support state legal agencies by offering free legal representation, which is helpful to women who cannot finance litigation. Nonetheless, the intensity and impact of NGOs are limited by meagre funds and resources, making the intensity and continuity of the undertaken activities questionable. These are the disadvantages, but the contribution of the NGOs and activists has been felt while campaigning or policymaking, and early or later it has ensured a formulation of policies for the protection of the women falling prey to domestic violence; hence, NGOs and activists are crucial components of the battle against gender-based violence in India.¹⁶

Analysis of the Effectiveness of Existing Legal Mechanisms

The provisions of law currently existing in India, and especially the “Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005”, go a long way when it comes to combating domestic violence by guaranteeing a full number of provisions for women. Domestic violence is defined by the Act broadly to include physical, emotional, sexual, and economic abuse of a person by another, which opens up beyond physical harm. The protection order, monetary relief, as well as residency of the victim in the shared household are some of the relief measures that assure the safety of a victim. They said the following facts make the legal process accessible: The DV Act, 2005 is procedurally less complicated than other laws since it permits victims to go directly to a magistrate for orders, and protection officers play a part in legal proceedings. The criminal sections include ‘Section 85 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023,’ which is an extended provision that prosecutes the commission of cruelty to women, and also deterrent measures pointing to criminalization of domestic violence. Subsequent judicial decisions such as *Indra Sarma v. V.K.V. Sarma*¹⁷ have gone even further to flesh out the meaning of ‘domestic relationships,’ given women legal recourse when in non-marital live-in relationships.¹⁸

Gaps in the Legal Framework

The current legal framework also has several limits, which negatively affect the protection of the victims of domestic violence. Some of these are: Another tragic shortfall is the absence of real penalties that hold the shield of protection orders under DV Act, 2005; some culprits disrespect them with almost no applicable consequence. The provisions of the DV Act, 2005 are also restricted by a severe lack of resources and training for Protection Officers through which victims receive aid. Further, delays in the attorneys providing relief or the courts concluding domestic violence cases hinder the victim from receiving a cessation of their suffering and discourage the rest of society from seeking justice. Corrective steps have been taken by the criminal law regarding this criminality under Section 85 of BNS, 2023, but the act has been accused of being misused, which causes some judicial hesitation in applying it stringently to neutralize the strong punitive tone of this remedy. Furthermore, the omission of certain elements of coercive control, which is a kind of abuse that involves the use of psychological tactics like isolation, would not adequately respond to all aspects of domestic violence as may be required. Additionally, it is not common to find support from the legal system to back up women in rural areas or women and men who cannot finance the courts on their own.

Conclusion

Domestic violence continues to be a burning women’s issue in India with multifaceted cultural, structural, and legal factors. The different types of domestic abuse, including physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse, are to an extent responded to under the law as enshrined under the legal tools such as the “Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005”. Nevertheless, some problems are beyond the discourse and do not allow its complete implementation in practice—the delays in the judicial system, insufficient protection of protection orders, and negative attitudes of public opinion. However, commitments under Engendered International Law such as CEDAW inform domestic policy to a certain extent, and there is still

¹⁵ Poulami Roychowdhury, *Capable Women, Incapable States: Negotiating Violence and Rights in India* 140 (Oxford University Press, New York, 1st edn., 2021).

¹⁶ Upasha Kumari, "Exploring the Role of NGOs in Addressing Gender-Based Violence Against Women", 1 *Journal of Advanced Research in Women's Studies* 38 (2023).

¹⁷ (2013) 15 SCC 755.

¹⁸ Pratyush Kumar, "Effectiveness of Laws on Domestic Violence in India: A Critical Appraisal with Special Reference to the Position in Bihar", 1 *International Journal of Doctrinal Legal Research* 58 (2022).

demand for better legal reform, such as evidencing coercive control as a form of abuse. Economic and social support for women is important to dismantle the pattern of abuse, in sharp addition to the support offered by NGOs. Thus, the elimination of domestic violence should be solved with the help of state legislation amendments, changes in institutions responsible for the protection of violated women, and educational campaigns to change public opinion and offer adequate civil liberties to victims. Improving these actions will advance justice and progress social justice within the communities.

Suggestion

The issue of women abuse within homes in India has both legal, societal and cultural dimensions that needs addressing. These challenges can only be solved by legal institutional changes in combination with public awareness and women's rights' mobilization. Here are detailed suggestions to improve the situation:

- Add the concept of coercive control as well as psychological abuse into the DV Act, 2005 because the law is inadequate in addressing that. This would expand the legal acknowledgement range and kinds of abuses that do not necessarily have physical effects but cause a lot of psychological problems.
- The absence of serious consequences for those who disobey protection orders should be eliminated by the respective legislation and properly adapted within the DV Act, 2005. For this reason, the protection orders of the current status lack enforcement mechanism, whereby the perpetrators disregard the protection orders with no severe repercussions on the lives of the victims.
- Set aside specialized courts for handling of domestic violence cases to ensure that the civil processes are fast and in relief of the general court system. such specialized courts could handle the cases more efficiently and with much sensitivity as to see that the victims get justice as soon as possible.
- Alleviate funding to Protection Officers to guarantee that they have all the needed tools to address to help victims; provide adequate or recurrent preparation for Protection Officers. This would enhance the quality of interaction offered and assist in eradicating set up hurdles in the enactment of the DV Act, 2005.
- Offer emergency and compassion to women and children, but focus on offering free legal services especially to rural women who have very little access to legal services. This would include deployment of mobile legal services and collaborating with NGOs 'to extend legal services to some of the most isolated regions.
- Create programs that would enable women who have undergone through one form of domestic violence to become financially independent. Shelter for women and girls cannot be ruled out together with micro-finance and funds for loans and grants can enable women to fend for themselves instead of being forced to stay with their husband who abuses them.
- Expand the number of certified shelters, crisis centres, to which victims can turn, and receive temporary housing and access to services such as counselling, legal aid. These facilities should be funded properly in order to at least provide the facilities with sufficiently qualified manpower.
- Where co-ordination with defence is necessary then mediation should be facilitated under the protective legal structures for the victim. There is a strong expectation that trained mediators can easily conduct focused discussions and normally deal with the case without endangering the life of the victim.
- Undertake mass creation of awareness through putting across targeted publicity in order to alter the society's perception on domestic violence. Such campaigns should be launched to encompass schools, workplaces and community facilities to inform people on the legal rescues of the victims and the in dispute of abuse.
- More effort should be made put toward offering specialised training to various officers in the police force, healthcare institutions and Judiciary personnel dealing with victims of domestic violence. About this training, one should be able to identify different types of abuse, which are not necessarily physical, and the legal recourse that is open to abused persons.
- Engage with NGOs, Community-Based Organizations, and other such organizations to expand the scope of support provision and advocacy. These groups work at filling some of the gaps in institutional services and addressing target groups that are often neglected.
- Conduct the evaluation of legal and policy actions, focused on the prevention of domestic violence on a periodic basis. This can assist to know whether reforms are required in some locations and that the legal safeguards are achieving the desired results.

These suggestions aim to create a holistic response to domestic violence, combining legal reforms with social and economic support measures to protect and empower women.