



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.
LOOK AGAIN AND YOU WILL SEE IT



36% OF REPORTED CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN
ARE COMMITTED BY CLOSE FAMILY MEMBERS



ACT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT, 2005

The PWDVA is a civil law aimed at providing relief to millions of women, including wives, mothers, daughters & sisters affected by violence in their homes.

A WOMAN IS FACING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IF SHE IS ...

- ◆ Physically abused in any way
- ◆ Prevented from seeing family or friends
- ◆ Forced to account for every expenditure
- ◆ Divested of personal property
- ◆ Insulted in public or private
- ◆ Falsely accused of infidelity
- ◆ Forced to have sex against her will

THROUGH THE PWDVA, AFFECTED WOMEN ARE ENTITLED TO

- ◆ **Protection:** The magistrate can pass orders to stop the offender from
 - aiding or committing violence within and outside the home
 - communicating with the woman
 - taking away her assets
 - intimidating her family and those assisting her against the violence
- ◆ **Residence:** The woman cannot be evicted from the shared household
- ◆ **Monetary relief and maintenance:** She is entitled to maintenance, including loss of earning, medical expenses, damage to property

- ◆ **Compensation:** She can claim damages for mental and physical injuries
- ◆ **Custody:** The court can grant her temporary custody of children
- ◆ **Interim Order/Ex Parte order:** The court can pass an interim order to prevent violence before the final order. In the absence of the other party to the dispute, an Ex Parte order can be passed.
- ◆ **Legal service:** Women have the right to free legal services under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987

To access these rights, women can approach the nearest Protection Officer, Registered Service Provider, police station or the magistrate. A Domestic Incident Report (DIR) has to be filled in by the Protection Officer or a Registered

ACT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- ◆ Don't be silent, speak up against abuse.
- ◆ Promote gender sensitivity among family, friends and neighbours.
- ◆ Support individuals in reporting family violence.
- ◆ Advocate for immediate appointment of Protection Officers, Service Providers and notification of Shelter Homes and Medical Facilities.