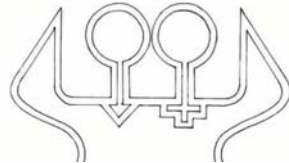


**PLAN OF ACTION SUPPORTING THE
PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT**

2005

NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON WOMEN



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INTRODUCTION

The Prevention of Domestic Violence Act came into operation on October 3rd, 2005. It provides an important opportunity for increased focus upon the issue of domestic violence. In order to ensure the Act is effective and meaningful, a structured and coordinated response is required. It is essential to raise awareness of the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, and to implement coordinated prevention, protection, and provision activities in relation to the issue of domestic violence in general. This Plan of Action sets out strategies and specific activities that aim to facilitate widespread awareness of the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, to develop and strengthen prevention initiatives and service provision, and to ensure that there is a strategic and coordinated response to domestic violence in Sri Lanka. The Plan of Action will contribute towards the fulfillment of Sri Lanka's international obligations, and its commitment to the 1993 Vienna Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

The National Committee on Women (NCW) will play a lead role in coordination, advocacy and monitoring in relation to the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act. Protection of women from gender-based violence is one of the rights enshrined in The Women's Charter of Sri Lanka. In accordance with NCW's mandate to implement and achieve the objectives of the Women's Charter, NCW has a particular responsibility towards the protection of women from gender-based violence. NCW will constitute a Steering Committee that will play a critical role in supporting NCW to coordinate the Plan of Action. The Steering Committee will comprise of representatives from relevant Ministries and Departments, multilateral agencies and NGOs.

This Action Plan has been developed in consultation with representatives from line Ministries, the Police Department, multilateral agencies and NGOs. It also draws on the strategies suggested in a national consultation workshop held in 2004 on gender-based violence organized by the UN Gender Working Group (led by UNFPA) and CENWOR, and on the recommendations of relevant publications (i.e. Wijayatilake & Guneratne 2002; Wijayatilake 2004). The strategies and activities contained within this Action Plan are not intended to rival existing initiatives, but to complement and strengthen education and training programs, services, and infrastructure currently provided by line Ministries, NGOs and UN agencies. Implementation of the Plan of Action will require efforts across all districts of Sri Lanka, particularly delivery of education and training activities, and strengthening and provision of support services.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

These principles underpin the Plan of Action and will guide government departments, agencies, organizations and services:

- All forms of domestic violence are unacceptable, regardless of background, culture, religion, gender, age, marital status or sexuality.
- All Sri Lankans have the right to live free from violence.
- Domestic violence is an issue that affects the whole community and demands a whole of community response.
- The safety and well being of those experiencing domestic violence must be the first priority for any response.
- The causes of domestic violence are complex and dynamic and demand a range of responses.

CONTEXT

Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence

Violence against women (VAW) and girls is a major health and human rights concern. It adversely affects the wellbeing of women, men and children. The United Nations *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women*¹ (1993) defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”.

Violence against women is widely prevalent in both the private and the public spheres (Kishor & Johnston 2004: xv). It is not constrained by boundaries, but occurs across class, caste, ethnicity, age, religion, culture, location and profession (UNIFEM 2005: 26). It is one of the most tangible consequences of economic, political and cultural inequalities (MAMTA 2003). The World Health Organization has recognized violence against women and girls as a major health and human rights issue. It states:

At least one in five of the world's female population has been physically or sexually abused by a man or men at some time in their life. Many, including pregnant women and young girls, are subject to severe, sustained or repeated attacks (WHO 1997).

In Sri Lanka, as well as globally, the most prevalent form of violence against women is domestic violence. Domestic violence is widely defined as an abuse of power perpetrated mainly (but not only) by men against women. Commonly perpetrated forms of domestic violence include: physical and sexual violence; threats and intimidation; emotional and social abuse; and economic deprivation. Wijayatilake (2004: 11) has argued that patriarchal ideologies and gender inequalities are embedded in Sri Lankan culture and society, thus normalizing violence against women within the country's social and cultural fabric. According to a report by the UN Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, over 60% of Sri Lankan women are subject to domestic violence (cited in Wijayatilake 2004: 13). Domestic violence is a social problem that requires a coordinated response from the Government, multilateral agencies, CSOs (civil society organizations), and the community.

Sri Lanka: legislative and programmatic responses

Gender equality and non-discrimination of women are key principles of the Sri Lankan Constitution promulgated in 1978. In 1981, Sri Lanka ratified the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Sri Lanka is also signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Vienna Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993). Further, Sri Lanka has subscribed to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995). Sri Lanka has obligations under all these legal instruments to protect women and girls from violence, including within the domestic sphere (Wijayatilake & Guneratne 2002).

¹ Resolution A/RES/48/104, dtd 23.2.94, UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women

A number of frameworks and State institutions have been established that work towards gender equality and the advancement of women in Sri Lanka, including: The Women's Bureau of Sri Lanka (1978); The Sri Lankan Women's Charter (1993); the National Committee on Women (1994); the provision of Ministry Status to Women's Affairs in 1997 (restructured in 2005 as part of the Ministry for Child Development and Women's Empowerment); the Centre for Gender Complaints at the National Committee on Women (1999); the National Plan of Action for women in Sri Lanka drawn up by NCW and the Ministry of Women's Affairs with support from NGOs and experts; and, Women and Children's Bureaus in Police Stations. In keeping with international commitment to declarations and conventions, important legal reforms have occurred in relation to issues such as trafficking, sexual harassment and rape. Other State structures working to address GBV are the Human Rights Commission, the Legal Aid Commission, the Ministry of Justice, and Diri Payasa. These legal frameworks, policy documents and institutional structures highlight State commitment to addressing gender issues.

There have also been considerable efforts by UN and non-governmental agencies (both national and international) in Sri Lanka to address and counter violence against women (Wijayatilake & Guneratne 2002). These organizations have adopted diverse strategies, and include awareness raising, training programs, research and information dissemination, media programs and lobbying campaigns. NGOs have also been active in the provision of structured responses such as legal and trauma counseling, shelters and medical services (Wijayatilake 2004: 23). However, the NGO sector can not be expected to take sole responsibility for the provision of such services, and State support and commitment is required to establish and upgrade facilities (Wijayatilake & Guneratne 2002).

The Prevention of Domestic Violence Act

The Prevention of Domestic Violence Act that came into operation on October 3rd, 2005 provides opportunity for renewed and refocused efforts to address the issue of domestic violence. The Act provides for the issue of Protection Orders by the Magistrate's Court to prevent an aggressor from inflicting harm to persons within defined relationships within the home environment or even outside. It does not seek to introduce new criminal offences or to punish persons for criminal offences, but rather provides a civil remedy that seeks to protect persons from coming to harm due to aggressive and abusive conduct of members of the household. The Act does not affect the criminal process which can continue to be used by law enforcement authorities to prosecute and punish perpetrators of domestic violence. A Protection Order may be sought by any person, irrespective of gender, who is subject to or likely to be subjected to domestic violence. An application can also be made on behalf of a person subjected to domestic violence by a Police Officer, and in the case of children by a person with whom the child resides, a parent or guardian, Police Officer or a person authorized by the National Child Protection Authority (Wijayatilake 2005).

Protection Orders can be obtained in respect of two categories of violence: i) physical violence and attempts to commit acts of physical violence (as set out in the Penal Code); ii) emotional abuse, defined as "a pattern of cruel, inhuman, degrading or humiliating conduct of a serious nature directed towards an aggrieved person."

PRIORITY AREAS

Three priority areas underpin this Plan of Action:

- Protection
- Provision
- Prevention

PROTECTION

Protection orders, law reform, and the refinement of policy and procedures for the care of victims of sexual and domestic violence post-assault are key methods for promoting the protection of those at risk of domestic violence.

PROVISION

Provision for domestic violence is characterized by a focus on 'tertiary' levels of intervention: providing victim-centered care *after* the assault, and reducing further harm. The provision of shelters, health, accommodation, counseling, and domestic violence services, are all examples of tertiary intervention. Tertiary interventions are critical for reducing further harm and caring for victims.

PREVENTION

In addition to protection and prevention, it is essential to look at effective programs and interventions for the prevention of domestic violence. Reviews of international literature have identified ways forward to prevent domestic violence, and these include:

- working with young people to break the cycle of violence,
- working with communities to educate against violence.

Education programs in schools have consistently been identified as a key strategy for reducing violence in society. By exposing children and young people to non-violent alternatives, and providing them with conflict resolution and anger management skills alongside a respect for others and tolerance of diversity, it is expected that violent behavior in adults will be prevented. Community education campaigns about domestic violence, gender-based violence and child abuse –for example, pamphlets, resource kits, fact sheets, posters, radio and television programs and commercials - can also be used to raise awareness, with the expectation that this will prevent domestic violence. Male accountability should be an integral component of community education and prevention strategies. It is also critical that community education and prevention strategies target vulnerable and at-risk groups, including IDPs, migrant women and their adolescent daughters, ageing and elderly women, women with disabilities, and women working in the plantation sector.



FOCUS AREAS

Focus 1: COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING

Raising awareness about domestic violence and the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act can help to create a safer environment, improve social responses to domestic violence, and change those attitudes and behaviors that tolerate domestic violence.

Focus 2: TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Training for relevant services and staff will provide awareness of the Act, and increase understanding of domestic violence and commitment to service provision. Training programs must be strengthened and developed in collaboration with relevant institutions, and targeted towards the specific roles of individual services. It is expected that training will also encourage the contribution of services and staff to ongoing efforts to increase community awareness and education.

Focus 3: INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The focus on infrastructure and support services will increase availability of services and enable programs to improve standards and ensure good outcomes for the community, with a focus on the safety of those experiencing domestic violence. The most effective interventions will be those that use collaborative planning and advocacy, provide support, and increase choices.

Focus 4. MEDIA

Implementation of a comprehensive media campaign can increase the capacity of the community to identify and appropriately respond to domestic violence. Awareness raising for media personnel, and the development of media guidelines, can assist to support more appropriate

and responsible representation of women and girls and gender issues in the media, and reduce gender stereotypes that subscribe to violence against women.

Focus 5. MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACT

Monitoring the implementation of the Act will ensure consistent and appropriate response, and allow evaluation of the utilization and effectiveness of the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act.

Focus 6: COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

A coordinated and collaborative response that is informed about community and national issues and developed in partnership with the community will strengthen program planning and implementation and improve prevention of domestic violence and protection of those who experience domestic violence.

Focus 7. MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS AND RESEARCH

Strengthened reporting of domestic violence by relevant bodies (i.e. hospitals and the police department) and improved research will provide information about the extent and nature of domestic violence for the development of evidence-led legislation and policy, and can promote renewed focus and incentive for national and community strategies.

Focus 8: POLICY AND POLICY MAKERS

It is a responsibility of state institutions, not victims of abuse, to reduce and eliminate domestic violence. Government must ensure that policy responses to domestic violence are appropriate and adequate.

PLAN OF ACTION

Focus 1: COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING				
Issue	Priority Areas	Target Group	Strategy - Activities	Responsible Organizations
1. Need for expert resource group to develop and adapt materials for awareness raising programs on gender, GBV and DV	Prevention	Community, youth, high-risk groups	<p>Resource development</p> <p>1.1 Constitute a multi-disciplinary resource group to develop awareness raising materials and modules on the Act and GBV (with a specific focus on Domestic Violence)</p> <p>1.2 Review and adapt existing awareness raising materials on domestic violence and gender-based violence</p>	NCW (lead agency): Community-based organizations Women's Bureau UN agencies NGOs
2. Lack of public awareness of the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act and the broader issue of domestic violence	Protection Prevention	<p>General public Youth Council Trade Unions</p> <p>High-risk and vulnerable groups (i.e. IDPs, migrant women, plantation sector, ageing and elderly women, women with disabilities)</p>	<p>Community education and awareness raising</p> <p>2.1 Dissemination of awareness raising materials at the community level (through schools, religious institutions, work-places etc.).</p> <p>2.2 Conduct awareness programs at community-level regarding the Act; address apprehension relating to the Act and potential separation of families.</p> <p>2.3 In addition to raising awareness about the Act, the programs should: increase understanding about the nature and prevalence of domestic violence; increase legal awareness amongst women and community members; encourage community and male responsibility and accountability towards GBV; increase the capacity of the community to identify and appropriately respond to incidents of DV.</p>	NCW (lead agency) Ministry of Child Development and Women's Empowerment Women's Bureau Ministry of Health and Nutrition Ministry of Justice and Judicial Reforms Other relevant ministries NGOs Religious leaders Women's societies
3. Inadequate information and services for adolescents and young persons	Protection Prevention	Adolescents and youths Schools and Universities	<p>Awareness raising for adolescents and youths</p> <p>3.1 Awareness raising for youth/adolescents on domestic violence in conjunction with other gender/sexual health issues. Distribute resources (written, IT, video materials) and deliver awareness raising programs on DV and gender issues.</p> <p>3.2 Develop educational materials for schools and universities that provide the knowledge and skills required to build relationships based on respect and a commitment to non-violence, using participatory activities</p> <p>3.3 Develop educational materials that focus on improving male responsibility towards the family unit</p> <p>3.4 Include GBV, DV and gender components in training of Principals and Education officials at the Education Management Centre</p>	NGOs Ministry of Education Schools and Universities National Institute of Education National Youth Council

Focus 2: TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING				
Issue	Priority Areas	Target Group	Strategy - Activities	Responsible Organizations
1. Need for expert resource group and relevant institutions to review and strengthen gender and DV training materials for professionals and services. Ensure training includes information about the Act	Prevention Provision	Judiciary, medical professionals and health workers, police, other service providers	Resource development 1.1 Constitute a multi-disciplinary resource group to strengthen and develop training packages, in collaboration with relevant institutions, for medical personnel, legal professionals, and service providers. Ensure training programs include information about the Protection of DV Act. 1.2 Identify shortfalls in service capacity and broader training requirements on DV (i.e. determinants, effective responses)	NCW (lead agency): Community-based organizations/NGOs Women's Bureau Relevant Ministries (i.e. Health, Justice) UN agencies
2. Lack of sensitivity to Domestic Violence amongst health service providers , and need for awareness of the Domestic Violence Act	Prevention Provision	Family health workers, doctors, other relevant health staff, medical students	Capacity building and training 2.1 Strengthen existing institutional curricula 2.2 Facilitate training for all categories of medical and health staff that increases awareness of the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, and increases sensitivity to DV.	Ministry of Health & Nutrition, Medical Schools, WHO, Professional bodies (e.g. SLMA, College of Surgeons, IMPA), Family Health Bureau
3. Need for awareness of the Domestic Violence Act amongst legal professionals , and discussion about the social determinants of DV	Prevention Provision	Judiciary, Legal Aid, Lawyers, Child Protection Authority, Mediation Board, Probation officers	Capacity building and training 3.1 Strengthen educational programs: i.e. UNDP's "Access To Justice" project, Magistrate's Continuous Learning Program 3.2 Ensure awareness amongst Magistrates and other legal and law professionals regarding the Prevention of DV Act 3.3 Ensure that awareness of the Act is complemented by consideration of the significance and the social determinants of DV	Ministry of Justice and Judicial Reform, Judges Institute, Law Schools, Legal Aid Commission, National Human Rights Commission, Bar Association, UNDP: 'access to justice' project.
4. Lack of sensitivity among the Police on the issue of Domestic Violence and gender-based violence	Prevention Provision	Police force	Capacity building and training 4.1 Strengthen existing institutional curricula 4.2 Facilitate training for police officers that increases awareness of the Act, raises sensitivity to DV, and encourages attitudinal change 4.3 Encourage active participation of the police in community programs, in order to strengthen relationships with community.	Police Training Institutes, NCW & UNIFEM (Police training programs); University of Colombo (Police and navy training program in Human Rights); NGOs
5. Need for training for all relevant workers in relation to Domestic Violence and GBV	Prevention Provision	WDOs, Counselors Samurdhi Officers Gramasewaka	Targeted capacity building and training for relevant workers 5.1 Inclusion of information about the Act and wider GBV/DV issues in existing training programs (i.e. counseling & WDO training)	NCW, Ministry of Child Development and Women's Empowerment, Ministry of Social Services (Counseling division), Open University of

Focus 2: TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING				
Issue	Priority Areas	Target Group	Strategy - Activities	Responsible Organizations
				Sri Lanka

Focus 3: INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPPORT SERVICES				
Issue	Priority Area	Target Group	Activities - Strategies	Responsible Organizations
1. Need for comprehensive review of existing infrastructure, resources and support services	Provision	Existing infrastructure and support services	Needs assessment; review of services and resources 1.1 Commission/conduct a review of existing of existing services 1.2 Review the capacity of services to assist and support children living with the effects and harms of domestic violence. 1.3 Identify good practice and opportunity for strengthening networks between relevant service providers and organizations	Ministry of Child Development and Women's Empowerment Ministry of Social Services and Welfare Research institutions Nat. Child Protection Authority
2. Review and develop standards and provisions for running Domestic Violence services	Protection Provision	Service providers	Review and develop guidelines 2.1 Review existing National guidelines (i.e. Minimum standard of care for survivors of Domestic Violence). 2.2 Review and learn from international best-practice guidelines and strategic plans for setting up and running DV services. 2.3 Review and set guidelines and best-practice standards for those working with people affected by domestic violence in Sri Lanka	Ministry of Child Development and Women's Empowerment Ministry of Social Services and Welfare NCW NGOs
3. Lack of shelters to support court Protection Orders	Protection Provision	Service providers Affected families Victims and perpetrators	Improve quality of shelters, and increase the number available. 3.1 Provide and increase shelters (safe houses) to enable people to leave abusive environments. Allocate more resources to these 3.2 Review and/or put in place standardization measures for quality assurance	Ministry of Social Services and Welfare, Dept. of Social Services, CSOs, Women's Bureau, Diriy Piyasa, UN, Sarvodaya, religious organisations
4. Lack of counseling services to support court Protection Orders	Provision	Service providers Affected Families Victims and perpetrators	Strengthen and increase the number of counseling services. 4.1 Increase cadre of professional counselors (i.e. family health workers, para-counselling services at community level, counseling services at police stations and hospitals) 4.2 Put in place standardization measures for quality assurance	Ministry of Social Services and Welfare (counseling div.), Women's Bureau, Police Department, Diriy Piyasa, NGOs, religious organizations,
5. Need to strengthen	Provision	Medical/Health	Strengthen existing health and medical services	Ministry of Health and Nutrition

Focus 3: INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPPORT SERVICES				
Issue	Priority Area	Target Group	Activities - Strategies	Responsible Organizations
capacity of existing medical services to respond to cases of domestic violence		Services	5.1 Provide training to enhance capacity to respond to DV and GBV (i.e. strengthen screening, referral, reporting to Police posts) 5.2 Advocate for clear lines of accountability for medical professionals to ensure they are operating according to protocol 5.3 Encourage women who have experienced violence to seek required medical attention	Provincial Ministry of Health Ministry of Child Development and Women's Empowerment
6. Need to strengthen capacity of police to respond to cases of domestic violence	Provision	Police, Women's and Children's Desks	Strengthen police response and case-management 6.1 Enhance capacity of police to respond to DV and GBV (i.e. strengthen facilities and resources, response and case-management), particularly Women's and Children's Desks. 6.2 Review and improve domestic violence risk assessment processes as required 6.3 Streamline and coordinate sequence of primary investigations for more victim-friendly process (a collaborative case-management approach with 1-stop crisis centre) 6.4 Develop investigation and evidence gathering protocols to increase the potential for Protection Orders that do not require the abused person to attend court	Police Department
7. Need for economic empowerment of women	Prevention Provision	Livelihood focused organizations Affected families Victims of DV	Livelihood support 7.1 Identify opportunities in areas and ensure that women have access to livelihood support programs, skills training and credit 7.2 Engage NGOs working on this issue and encourage their active involvement with women's livelihoods	Divisional secretariat National Vocational Training Authority, NGOs, Women's Chamber of Commerce Women's Bureau
8. Need to support schools to improve their responses to domestic violence issues	Protection Provision	Youth and adolescents	Strengthen and/or develop protocols for responding to youth affected by DV 8.1 Support schools to develop processes to improve their response to youth affected by domestic violence 8.2 Include GBV issues in school counselor's training programs	Ministry of Education NIE School principals NGOs

Focus 4. MEDIA				
Issue	Priority Area	Target Group	Activities - Strategies	Responsible Organizations
1. Need to counter potential negative attitudes within the community towards the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act and to increase awareness of the issue of domestic violence	Prevention	Society Media	Community awareness raising 1.1 Develop and co-ordinate an integrated media campaign to dispel apprehension around the DV Act, and increase awareness of DV 1.2 Encourage newspapers/radio/television programs to discuss the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act 1.3 Mainstream DV issue in Media Ministry programs (talk-shows etc) and provide messages to counteract negative concepts and to disseminate information and increase public awareness	The Media Ministry. Private media sector Media Action Group Health Education Bureau
2. Need to eliminate negative representation of women and girls in the media, and increase the capacity of the media to promote anti-domestic violence attitudes	Prevention	Media Ministry Private media Editor's Guild Press Council	Develop code-of-conduct guidelines 2.1 Set up a Media Action Group comprising key figures within the media sector to raise awareness, monitor and make recommendations regarding gender sensitivity in the media 2.2 Develop a code-of-conduct concerning gender and the media 2.3 Sensitize media personnel to support appropriate dissemination of information relating to GBV issues and concerns	Media Action Group The Media Ministry Health Education Bureau Editor's Guild Department of Mass Communication (Kelaniya Uni., Jayavardenapura University)

Focus 5. MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACT				
Issue	Priority Area	Target Group	Activities - Strategies	Responsible Organizations
1. Need for structures to monitor the utilization and processing of protection orders	Protection	Law enforcement authorities Affected families	Monitoring the use and implementation of Protection Orders 1.1 Set up a Protection Order monitoring unit, in association with the National Committee on Women complaints cell 1.2 Establish links between courts, police, service providers and communities with the aim of monitoring the safety of victims of domestic violence during protection order proceedings 1.3 Create and maintain a database to monitor and evaluate the utilization and effectiveness of the implementation of the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act	NCW Law Enforcement Authorities NGO coalitions Gender & human rights groups Ministry of Justice and Judicial Reforms

Focus 6: COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION				
Issue	Priority Area	Target Group	Activities - Strategies	Responsible Organizations
1. Need for strengthened networks between NGOs, agencies and Ministries that provide domestic violence services	Provision	NGOs Multilateral agencies Relevant line Ministries	Networking and coordination 1.1 Draw on potential for a gender-based violence working group to coordinate implementation & planning across agencies & sectors 1.2 Through the GBV working group, set up clear pathways for referral and increase collaboration and information sharing	Ministry of Social Services and Welfare UN agencies NGOs GBV Working group (UNFPA)
2. Need to promote local community interventions and build capacity to respond in a coordinated and collaborative manner to domestic violence	Protection Prevention Provision	Society CBOs High-risk groups (i.e. IDPs, migrant women, plantation sector, elderly women, women with disabilities)	Strengthen community capacity to respond to domestic violence 2.1 Constitute working groups across all districts in order to strengthen collaboration between CBOs, NGOs, relevant services and authorities 2.2 Strengthen support structures for community-based organizations to promote and enable local community interventions 2.3 Consult with key members of communities and identify and develop working relationships to address domestic violence issues.	NGOs Community-based organisations Ministry of Child Development and Women's Empowerment UN Agencies

Focus 7. MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS AND RESEARCH				
Issue	Priority Area	Target Group	Activities - Strategies	Responsible Organizations
1. While estimates of the prevalence of VAW in Sri Lanka are high, reliable information is not available	Protection Prevention Provision	Department of Census and Statistics	Research and data collection 1.1 Encourage the Department of Census and Statistics to include a DV module in the Demographic and Health Survey. 1.2 Encourage think-tanks/research institutions/universities to conduct research	Department of Census and Statistics Ministry of Child Development and Women's Empowerment NCW, UN agencies
2. Need to strengthen and standardize screening and reporting of GBV and DV within police and medical services. Need to increase availability of reliable statistical information on nature and prevalence of domestic violence	Protection Prevention	Police Women's and Children's Desks Medical and health services	Strengthen and standardize reporting mechanisms 2.1 Strengthen or develop consistent reporting tools for confidential and effective reporting of violence against women by police 2.2 Develop/strengthen screening and gender-disaggregated record keeping in medical and health facilities, in order to increase capacity to accurately document, identify and respond to DV cases 2.3 Provide technical training to medical staff and police to in relation to record keeping systems that gather comprehensive and essential data for immediate medical, legal purposes, and for future analysis	Police Department Ministry of Child Development and Women's Empowerment Ministry of Health and Nutrition Professional medical bodies Family Health Bureau

Focus 7. MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS AND RESEARCH				
Issue	Priority Area	Target Group	Activities - Strategies	Responsible Organizations
3. Lack of information on high-risk communities.	Protection Prevention Provision	High-risk communities	Research and policy development 3.1 Identify high-risk communities. Review, analyze and disseminate research on domestic violence issues, particularly communities at high-risk of domestic violence (plantation workers/conflict areas) 3.2 Commission policy and advocacy related participatory research 3.3 Identify specific needs of high-risk groups and use research to inform State responses to domestic violence	Universities and research organizations
4. Need to develop evidence-base documenting effective service models	Protection Prevention Provision	Community High-risk communities	Develop evidence-base of effective strategies 4.1 Ongoing research into effective service models to reduce the incidence and impact of domestic violence, including strategies to increase male accountability. 4.2 Demonstrate effective strategies and resultant policy developments that contribute to protection, prevention and provision in relation to violence affecting women.	Universities and research organizations

Focus 8: POLICY AND POLICY MAKERS				
Issue	Priority Area	Target Group	Activities - Strategies	Responsible Organizations
1. The Domestic Violence Act has not yet been mainstreamed in policy-level documents	Provision	Policy-making bodies Relevant ministries	Mainstream DV Act in policy documents 1.1 Review line Ministry Strategies and other policy documents (i.e. Mental Health Policy), and mainstream the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act where required 1.2 The National Committee on Women must mainstream the Domestic Violence Act into its National Plan of Action	NCW Relevant Ministries
2. Insufficient awareness and interest among policy makers on gender-based violence	Protection Prevention Provision	Policy makers Parliamentarians Provincial counselors Pradesiya sabha	Awareness raising of policy makers 2.1 Continuous advocacy with policy-makers to increase awareness and consideration of the issues of domestic violence and violence against women 2.2 Provide advice to progress Government priorities, and to increase State resource allocation to address GBV and DV.	Professional organizations, Civil society groups NGOs UN agencies Relevant ministries

Focus 8: POLICY AND POLICY MAKERS				
Issue	Priority Area	Target Group	Activities - Strategies	Responsible Organizations
3. Need to identify effective regional strategies concerned with Domestic Violence	Provision	Relevant ministries Service providers Policy-making bodies	Review of international and national policy and strategies 3.1 Conduct a review of national and international policy frameworks for domestic violence prevention & protection 3.2 Identify effective interventions and strategies and best practices	Ministry of Child Development and Women's Empowerment UN agencies NGOs Research institutes

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