

INSIDE JUSTICE:

Enabling justice for victim survivors of sexual and gender-based violence

Sharing of The Asia Foundation's Experiences



The Asia Foundation

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sexual and gender-based violence*



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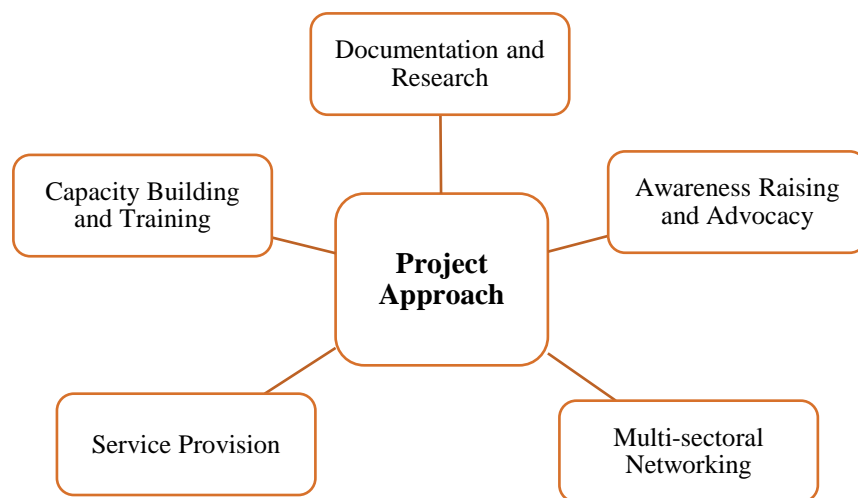
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A. What do you need to know about this publication?

This publication documents experiences and learnings of The Asia Foundation, over the course of a three-year project titled “Ensuring Formal Justice Sector Responsibility and Accountability to Redress Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) against Women and Girls in Sri Lanka”. The project was implemented from 2017 to 2020 by The Asia Foundation’s Sri Lanka office with financial assistance from the European Union. Local partners, Women In Need and the Women and Media Collective were pivotal in the implementation of the project.

The project itself was formulated in response to gaps, shortcomings, insensitivities and discrimination shown by the formal justice sector when dealing with incidents and cases of SGBV. The overall objective of the project was to redress SGBV against women and girls in Sri Lanka through access to just, fair, and sensitive judicial processes. The project took a multi-pronged approach to ensure accountability from above – where the formal justice system was to be held responsible and accountable for fair trial, due process, and gender sensitive and equitable access to justice, and accountability from below – where civil society was to be enabled and responsible for ensuring that justice is delivered to women and girl victims of SGBV.

The experiences documented in this publication are broadly informed through activities implemented under the following project approaches:



While this publication specifically documents experiences around justice for women and girl victims of SGBV, it is also informed and substantiated by The Asia Foundation’s long history of work and partnership with the formal justice sector in Sri Lanka, which has included support to the Ministry of Justice, Judge’s Institute, Attorney General’s Department, Mediation Boards Commission, Legal Aid Commission and the Bar Association of Sri Lanka.

This publication is intended to inform development practitioners, service providers, law enforcement and the justice sector to work towards providing victim-centric programmatic interventions to inform justice sector responses to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls. While we understand that there is no one-size-fits-all approach, we hope our experiences, learnings, challenges and failures can benefit other individuals and organizations in similar work.

B. Why work on justice for victims of sexual and gender-based violence?

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is a major human rights concern with evidence of increasing incidence and widespread prevalence, yet the formal justice sector response in Sri Lanka remains gender blind and not responsive to the experience and needs of women and girls who survive such violence. There are several issues that underpin the lack of access to formal justice by survivors of SGBV, including mistrust of the judicial system by survivors and civil society due to a track record of long delays and the burden of proof on survivors; lack of sensitivity and tact among justice sector personnel and service providers (from judges, lawyers, prosecutors, court staff, police, child protection officers, medical and educational officials, counsellors, Registrars of Marriages and those in welfare services); impunity and suspended sentences given for perpetrators of violence; discriminatory attitudes that minimize or discount access to justice and lack of capacity building to support civil society intervention and engagement to systematically influence judicial systems and hold it to account. Seemingly, the formal justice system from the police to the courts of law, often alienate the very people they are bound to protect.

The legislative framework to prevent and redress SGBV in Sri Lanka, however, is strong. The Penal Code was amended in 1995 and 1998 to strengthen the criminal law in protecting the physical integrity of women (and children). These included amendments to rape laws and offences such as procurement of any person for illicit sexual intercourse, anti-trafficking laws, criminalization of sexual violence, recognition of incest as an offence, and the prohibition of the publication of details which reveal the identity of victims of sexual crimes. The Victim and Witness Protection legislation of 2015 secured further protection for victims of SGBV. The Prohibition of Ragging and Other Forms of Violence in Educational Institutions Act of 1998 also criminalizes sexual harassment, grievous hurt, hostage taking, unlawful confinement and ragging by any person within an educational institution. The Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 2005 provides a civil remedy for persons subject to violence (including emotional abuse) by a family member where they may seek a protection or interim protection order.

While these laws are in place to recognize the formal courts of law as the only form of justice for crimes of sexual violence against women, the flawed implementation of laws, coupled with discriminatory socio-cultural interpretations of the rights, roles and expected behavior of women, often deny women access to justice in the formal courts of law. Response to, and redressal of SGBV against women in Sri Lanka is steeped in discourse that provides socio-cultural explanations which in many ways, justify and trivialize sexual violence against women and does not support the clear acceptance that the formal justice system has an important role to play in addressing SGBV. Apart from ad hoc attempts to raise awareness and sensitize the judiciary, prosecutors, and private Bar, no concerted effort has been made to mainstream sensitive responses to SGBV in the formal justice sector or in formal legal education. There is still a dire need to recognize the flaws in the formal links of the justice chain and change all stakeholders and partners in the administration of justice to provide redress and prevent sexual violence against women.

Development projects and justice sector interventions implemented to this end, provide insight into what more can be done, what can be done better, what should not be done and what works best. Therefore, while these recent projects and interventions have brought about positive and progressive change, there still remains much to be done in terms of creating an environment where justice sector interventions to respond to, redress and prevent SGBV are gender sensitive and focus on a victim-centric perspective.

C. Why work from a victim-centric perspective?

One of the main learnings from our work is that the development initiatives focusing on assisting victims of SGBV must understand victim perceptions and needs in order to design and develop effective projects that respond to the real needs of ultimate beneficiaries. For justice sector interventions, it is important to ask *Why are victims reluctant to seek legal redress until it is their last and only option, even when there are laws, systems and processes in place from the police to the courts to help victims get justice and ensure that perpetrators are punished?* Here are 10 reasons from our work and research to help development practitioners and justice sector service providers understand why a legal remedy to violence becomes a victim's last resort in cases of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.

1. **Knowledge on rights, laws and support services:** Community level work across the country shows that many women and girls are not aware of their rights nor of the legal remedies available if these rights are violated. Violence and the use of force in intimate relationships is almost normalized in the absence of these topics in formal education curricula or structured awareness programs. Many women are also not aware that there are organizations which provide free services including counselling, shelter, legal and other support services. *Would you report if you didn't know about or understand what you were getting yourself into?*
2. **Internal fears and inhibitions:** Most victim survivors, especially of domestic violence, fear that reporting and seeking legal redress for the violence they face will destabilize their lives and the lives of their children. Without the realization that a family with violence is already a broken one, they fear being the cause of breaking the marriage and family and losing custody of their children if legal relief is sought. *Would you still report if you were afraid of what will happen to you and your children?*
3. **Social stigma and victim blaming:** Outdated socio-cultural norms, myths and misconceptions puts the onus on women to stay safe, to be patient and tolerant, to keep family disputes and violence within the private sphere, to believe that men and boys cannot help themselves and to remember that going to a courthouse brings dishonor to the family. Since society often places blame on the woman, many women fear the social repercussions of seeking legal redress. Having to explain the incident in detail from the police to the courts, also brings a feeling of shame to the victim. *Would you still report if you knew that you will be blamed for the violence you faced?*
4. **Retaliation and exacerbation of violence:** Victim survivors, especially of domestic violence, fear returning home after making a police complaint or seeking formal help due to possible retaliation from the perpetrator. They fear for their lives as the violence can exacerbate after a complaint through further threats, intimidation, assault and other forms of aggravated behavior. They also have little faith in adequate compensation or just sentencing. *Would you still report if you knew that you might face more violence or the perpetrator may not be punished at the end of the process?*
5. **Economic dependency on the perpetrator:** For victims of domestic violence, the perpetrator is most often, her husband or intimate partner, on whom she is economically dependent. It is therefore difficult to leave the abusive home environment, if the victim has no alternate accommodation, no source of income to provide for her children and lacks the economic

resources to access lawyers and courts. *Would you still report if it meant complaining against the person providing for you?*

6. **Lack of adequate and accessible services:** Regional discrepancies in the adequacy, availability and accessibility of legal and support services for women victims can be seen in certain post-conflict areas and economically lagging regions in the country. These include, but are not limited to the lack of adequate counselling and legal aid services, lack of victim shelters, insufficient resources and training for prompt action, lack of trained officers for interrogation and investigation, insufficient service providers in local languages and lack of adequate courts. Victim survivors may also first seek informal means such as confiding in family, friends, colleagues, elders, religious or village leaders, counsellors and service providers rather than seeking formal legal redress through the police and courts. *Would you still report if you had difficulty in reaching service providers?*
7. **Intimidation with the legal redressal process:** Many victims have no experience in accessing the police or courts and have negative perceptions of the law, courts and legal mechanisms and fear going to the court houses themselves or standing in the witness box and giving evidence. As there is no proper guidance through the legal redress process, many do not understand the process itself, what is required of them and what should be expected during the process. Many victims, especially child victims of sexual violence, are not prepared to share their stories using terminology and formality expected by the courts. *Would you still report if you were afraid of the system?*
8. **Gaps in law:** Many victims who access services note that they face sexual violence including marital rape, however, they have no means of getting redress, legal or otherwise, as marital rape is not recognized as a criminal offence in Sri Lanka. Additionally, SGBV faced by sexual minorities does not get reported due to archaic laws that criminalize same sex relationships. Outdated laws do not adequately capture technology facilitated cyber violence against women as well. *Would you still report if you knew that there is no law to protect you?*
9. **Delays in the justice process:** Public awareness of issues and delays in the formal justice process discourage victim survivors from seeking legal redress. There are many delays during pre-trial investigation such as in getting medico-legal and DNA reports. Delays in filing the required documents by the Attorney General's Department also contributes to long delays of justice as do prolonged time taken to conclude a trial and give the sentence or compensation. Some service providers and members of the police who are aware of these delays also discourage victims from initiating a legal process. *Would you still report if you knew that it would take more than a decade for you to get justice?*
10. **Negative experiences of other victim survivors:** Despite issues, many victim survivors do build up the courage to make complaints to the formal law enforcement authorities. Unfortunately, many of these women have a negative and frightening experience from their first point of contact with the formal legal redress process, which is the police, right up to the courts. Officers in these institutions often have patriarchal and outdated views, do not believe the accounts of abuse given by victims, think such stories are fabricated, do not recognize domestic violence as a violation of rights and often treat domestic violence complaints as an issue which should be settled in the private domain. *Would you still report if you knew that someone who did was shunned away?*

D. What should you know *before* you start working on gender justice?

Our experiences from this project have been invaluable in helping us understand the complex landscape in which we planned and implemented gender and justice work in Sri Lanka. We documented our experiences throughout the project, including from our research, interactions with persons and institutions from the formal justice sector, work with organizations providing services to women victims of SGBV and other learnings. We reflected on these documented experiences and noted that some of the points were crucial pieces of information we had *before* we started on this work. We then put together the following questions to help guide those who plan to engage with the justice sector in Sri Lanka on justice for women and child victims of violence.

1. What is the level of awareness on the extent and impacts of violence against women?

Many of those within the formal justice sector are often unaware of the prevalence of SGBV against women and girls in Sri Lanka. While reporting of such violence is low compared to actual incidences, those cases that do reach the formal justice system are far fewer. There is also little understanding of the mental, physical, social and economic impacts of violence against women. Therefore, be aware that treating gender sensitivity as a serious concern may not seem like a priority concern for those within the justice sector.

2. How can you ensure understanding of concepts of “gender equality” and “gender justice”?

In the context of Sri Lanka, the concepts of gender sensitization and mainstreaming gender equality are mainly concentrated within the development sector and not enough has changed for people on the ground. This includes those within the formal justice sector such as judges, lawyers, prosecutors, administrators and court staff. Introducing these concepts at what is potentially a mid-point in their careers is particularly difficult. Careful attention must be paid to messaging and content that is provided to the justice sector.

3. What are the current laws and policies that promote gender justice?

Sri Lanka has produced various national policy documents to address the disadvantages and discrimination that women encounter in the formal justice system. A thorough review of existing laws, policies, action plans, and empirical studies that identify the need to ensure gender justice for women is useful, not only to monitor and document their implementation, but also to justify a push for state accountability and provide grounds for justice sector project interventions. On the other hand, it is also useful to take stock of the existing laws and policies that discriminate on the grounds of sex and gender and pose challenges to progress in women’s rights. This would help assess what types of interventions are required to address them.

4. How does your work connect to wider national and global development goals?

It is useful to look at how planned work links to national development plans and priorities identified locally, and global development goals that the state has already endorsed. For example, the National Policy Framework Vistas of Prosperity and Splendor has identified some aspects of justice sector reform. Additionally, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) has raised gender justice as an issue in Sri Lanka, which presents an opportunity to expand efforts in promoting justice for women who experience violence. Linking to the global development agenda can also bolster the legitimacy of small-scale development initiatives.

5. What trusted local organizations are working on these issues?

Sri Lanka has several local women's organizations that have been working on the ground for several decades. Partnering on gender-justice projects with local organizations and their networks can be mutually beneficial. International organizations have much to learn from the hands-on experience of trusted, local providers of SGBV services, while local groups can use the resources of an international partner to make their voices heard at a national policy level, connect with other stakeholders, and increase the impact of their advocacy.

6. Who else should you be working with?

When working on gender-justice projects, it is important to work with champions from the sector and to have advisors from the gender and justice sectors on the project team. One useful strategy is a "stakeholder mapping" to identify stakeholders with related interests at various levels of the public and private sectors. These may include individuals from government ministries, bar associations, training institutes for judges and lawyers, legal-aid providers, and even private companies that include women's issues in their social-responsibility portfolios. Referral networks among service providers such as police and security sectors, healthcare professionals, as well as counselling and social care networks, could be considered here.

7. How can you ensure a coordinated approach through planned interventions?

There are many stakeholders and institutions in the response machinery in cases of sexual and gender-based violence with varying levels of gender sensitivity. Ensuring that justice sector interventions promote gender justice, then requires a comprehensive and coordinated effort that goes beyond the justice sector to enlist the support and engagement of other sectors. Involving all stakeholders such as judicial and legal professionals, court staff, police, state counsel, organizations that provide legal assistance, women's organizations and civil society organizations as well as health sector and state sector institutions from the onset is important to identify and map out a coordinated response mechanism.

8. Have you found the good amidst the bad and the ugly?

When studying the justice sector, it is important to catalogue positive practices and experiences. Gathering evidence of failings and bad practices no doubt helps to identify needed improvements, but it can give the appearance of a fault-finding mission. A conscious search for current best practices in the formal justice sector will bring to light problems that the sector itself has identified, highlight strategies that work, and put stakeholders at ease that the investigation is searching for solutions rather than assigning blame.

9. Are you aware of regional and location specific nuances?

The socio-economic and political landscape across Sri Lanka is as diverse as its geographical landscape. Health, education, employment and economic indicators from across the country show regional disparities and the availability and accessibility for services is also varied. This holds true for services responding to the mental and physical health of victim survivors, their access to police and legal services as well as the availability of other support services such as shelters. Development initiatives, therefore, should try to address issues in lagging regions or ensure the real needs in those selected locations are reflected in the response.

10. Have you considered intersectionality of beneficiaries and stakeholders?

There is no single profile for victims of domestic and SGBV. Age, sex, race, religion, nationality, (dis)ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, income/poverty levels, literacy and

educational attainments and the intersections of these, mean victims cannot be treated as a homogeneous group. Development initiatives targeting victim survivors, therefore, should also be nuanced enough to address the varying needs, challenges and circumstances. This should also be reflected in stakeholders consulted during the project and in opinions that form the basis of programmatic interventions.

11. What structural and institutional barriers exist within the justice sector?

It is useful to study the existing justice sector and its composition and workings at the outset of project work. In Sri Lanka, women are overrepresented in law schools and institutions, however, they are very much underrepresented in the practice, at higher levels in the judiciary and within the policy level and other decision-making bodies. The justice sector itself might not be representative of the populations it serves; thus, it is useful to understand these nuances and if/how they impact project work.

12. Are you addressing socio-cultural issues alongside justice sector concerns?

While the focus of gender justice related projects would be related to formal or informal justice sector concerns, there are multiple socio-cultural issues that simultaneously need to be addressed or in the least, considered during wider implementation. For example, one of the main barriers to ensuring services (justice related or otherwise) for victims of SGBV, are negative and dated socio-cultural attitudes held by victims, service providers and the community; they prevent victims from reaching out for help and service providers from understanding the context and providing adequate and sensitized services. As a result, the community, where both victims and service providers belong, continue to perpetuate negative stereotypes, victim-blaming and the trivialization of violence against women. These issues, if left un-addressed through project interventions, will continue to pose as barriers to achieving project goals and the development of the community.

13. Are you offering core support to organizations carrying out the work?

Organizations and institutions that provide support and partnership for various development interventions are often established ones, mandated to do their own work in addition to the components supported by project intervention. Offering core financial support rather than specific activity-based funding will therefore help strengthen these organizations and institutions and ease their burden.

14. How should you look at content development and messaging?

Some of the core messages of gender-justice and women's empowerment projects are similar to what feminists, women's rights activists, and development practitioners have been saying for several decades. It is important to acknowledge and embrace this legacy, but it is also important to devise new and creative formulations of these messages that speak to current perceptions and which resonate with target audiences. And while the lived experience of SGBV victims must be part of the message to policymakers and those in authority, it is also important to share news of positive change and developments with the community and civil society organizations so as to sustain their faith in the formal justice process.

15. How can you share your work to avoid duplication of work within the sector?

In addition to working with a range of stakeholders, it is also important to find out about and stay in touch with existing networks working on gender-justice issues. In Sri Lanka, the National Forum against Gender-based Violence, the Gender Equality Think Tank on Access to Justice and Development Partner Working Groups on Gender and Justice have been useful forums to share and learn from organizations carrying out similar work. It is also good to write to various online portals that document development sector activities and ensure that appropriate links and tags are provided. Contributing experiences and best practices to the global development discourse from the global-south is also important.

16. Can you expedite the lengthy formal approval process to carry out justice sector projects?

Implementing projects including research projects on gender justice see many delays and difficulties due to the hierarchical and bureaucratic nature of the formal justice system as in Sri Lanka. Therefore, to avoid possible assertions of disrespect and even contempt of court, it is beneficial to always seek the formal approval of and go-ahead from various levels: from the Chief Justice, Attorney General and relevant ministries as deemed appropriate. It is also important to officially contact judicial and other relevant institutions to eliminate any misconceptions on the nature of the research or project and provide sufficient information well in advance.

17. How can modern technology be used in a traditional system?

The court system in Sri Lanka is still fairly traditional and restricts the use of technological devices such as smart phones and tablets during court proceedings. This poses a difficulty when trying to collect data and record observations for research purposes. It also makes searching for case files and court records a tedious and time-consuming task. It is useful to have realistic expectations of using modern technology in this sector. It is also important to factor in adequate funds for equipment, staff and capacity building if technology or innovation form a significant part of the project intervention.

18. What makes up your justice sector wish list?

It is useful to maintain and update a “wish-list” of change you desire from the work you do. Our project wish-list kept expanding from the inception of the project and presented a list of activities for us to try to materialize as the project progressed. Our wish list ranged from effective police investigation; uniform and efficient data gathering from the police, courts and prisons; short scheduling and fast track court hearings for SGBV cases; court automation; pre-recording of vulnerable witness’ evidence; a comfortable and safe environment in court; effective victim and witness protection; judicial sensitivity, commitment and leadership; gender sensitivity training for legal practitioners and professionals; linked and continuous support services for victims; institutionalizing gender sensitive practices in the formal courts; and improving legal redress services in lagging regions.

19. Why is it important to document what went wrong?

Planning effective development projects usually ensure a consultative process and the compilation of a comprehensive risk register at the onset. However, many unforeseen challenges prevent planned activities from materializing smoothly. Instead of looking at these as project failures, it is important to document them and continue to question what went wrong and why. In the context of Sri Lanka, it could even be as small as looking at interactions and responses of individuals from the justice sector.

20. How can you account for the unforeseen?

The wider socio-political, economic and global landscape in which we operate is dynamic and ever changing. Several adverse socio-political events and incidents occurred in Sri Lanka during the project period that had an impact on the implementation and flow of the project (Constitutional Crisis in 2018; Easter Sunday Attacks of 2019; Presidential and Parliamentary Elections of 2019 and 2020). Additionally, effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic were also experienced. While priority in addressing and responding to gender justice issues decreases at such times, these crises also provide an opportunity to re-design and respond to immediate and impending needs.

21. How can you be ready to make use of emerging opportunities?

Being visible through the work you do with the formal justice sector will open new opportunities and invitations to work, partner and network with other similar endeavors. In anticipation of this, it is useful

to have at hand the basic information, findings, contacts and recommendations that you will need for future engagements. This can be done by preparing information pieces using various interesting formats such as videos, infographics, articles and presentations.

22. Is exploratory programming and funding available?

In gender and development work, quirks of context and unanticipated consequences often rear their heads after plans have been set in motion and project work is underway. This was specially seen in the recent past in Sri Lanka, with several significant events taking place that rendered an unstable socio-cultural and political environment. It is vital to provide for flexibility and responsiveness in research methodology, project management and budgeting so that the project can adapt to the unexpected and be improved by the encounter. Integrating continued learning and reflection into project implementation is a necessity, not only in this type of work, but in most development initiatives.

23. How can you ensure long term sustainability through short-term project interventions?

Due to the short-term nature of some development activities, projects and funding, there may be practical difficulties in planning long term and sustainable development initiatives. However, there is a vital need to prioritize projects with longer term outcomes and goals, or in the least make provision for incremental steps in project interventions. It is also important to ensure justice sector interventions are locally owned by formal justice institutions (where applicable) and can be sustained after project support has ended.

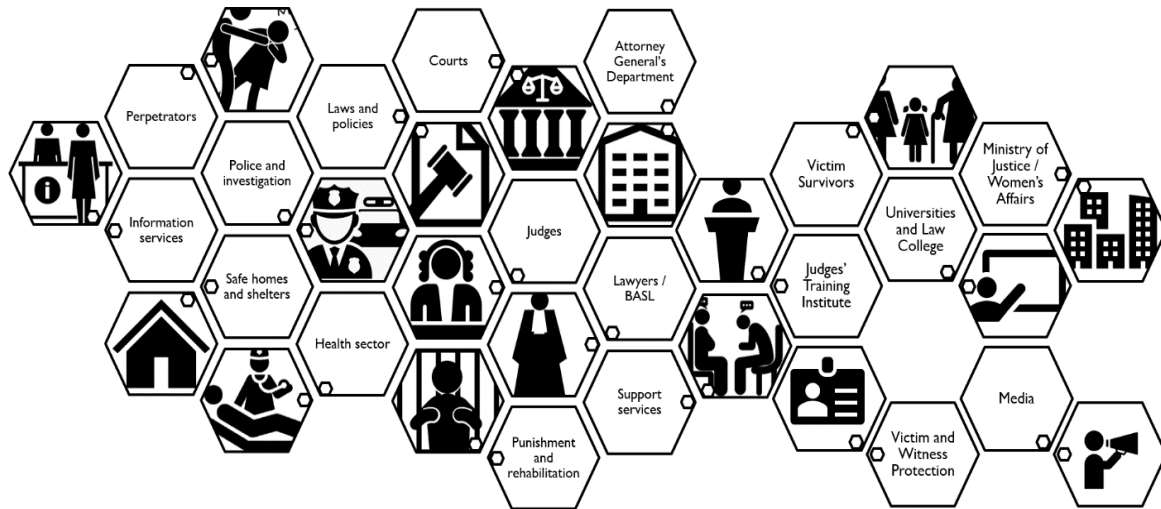
24. How much caution is too much caution?

Our work with the justice sector is executed with much caution at each level of implementation where we keep asking ourselves if we are on the right track, if our planned intervention will do no harm and whether it is the best method to do so. As much as it would be nice to throw caution to the wind and steer ahead with planned interventions, it is important to make cautious and calculated decisions in all gender justice related projects so as not to regress or aggravate the context.

25. Do you have realistic expectations of change and impact?

Once you have reflected on these questions, ask yourself, if your expectations are realistic and if you are patient enough to wait for the change you so desire! In Sri Lanka, with its male-dominated, hierarchical justice system, change can be frustratingly slow. Components within gender justice programming, from law reform to institutional and attitudinal change to gender sensitive responses in SGBV cases, are all substantial and complicated components that require significant and long-term investments. Desired outcomes may emerge only gradually and remain invisible during the life of the project. You may have to remind yourself that doing gender and development work with the formal justice sector, or any other sector for that matter, takes time.

E. What was tried and tested?



DOCUMENTATION AND RESEARCH

At project design and inception, there was much anecdotal evidence available on how the formal justice sector responds to SGBV in Sri Lanka. There was little systematically documented information, obtained for instance, through court proceedings, court use surveys, case file review, judgements and victim's experiences. There was also very little documented evidence to understand the challenges faced by the judiciary and formal justice sector, the best practices and positive examples followed by the sector or the issues and gaps within the formal justice sector that inhibits gender sensitivity. We were, therefore, able to consolidate a wide evidence base to inform our project work and advocacy efforts by looking at literature, speaking to judges, lawyers and prosecutors, conducting court observations and hearing from victims.

The main documentation and research related activities of this project were the (1) baseline assessment (2) court observation research (3) media mapping study (4) documentation of cases at Women In Need (5) documentation of cases at the Attorney General's Department (6) the resource pack to inform judicial gender sensitivity on SGBV cases (7) the handbook on victim-centric service provision and (8) documentation of project experiences and learnings. Each of these activities was carefully designed to inform various aspects of the project and content. Our experience on gender justice documentation and research fall within three main areas and some key decisions that informed us have been presented under these headings: conceptualization and design, data collection and dissemination of findings.

Conceptual approach

- Exercise extreme caution in design, data collection and dissemination due to the sensitivity of SGBV issues and sharing of justice sector related findings.
- Avoid possible assertions of disrespect and contempt of court by ensuring formal approval of and go-ahead from various levels of the formal justice sector: from the Chief Justice, Attorney General and relevant ministries as appropriate and keep them informed when necessary.
- Make a conscious effort to look for best practices, champions and effective systems from within the formal justice sector itself, rather than focusing only on gaps that need to be rectified.

- Keep in mind that the sector itself is ever evolving and that findings documented during the data collection phase may not necessarily present an accurate picture if compared to the current context.

Data collection

- Understand that there can be a general lack of support from court officials in providing information as there is no user-friendly way to access court records (from lower courts). Registrars require official letters, and this is a time-consuming process, it might be easier to collect court case records from selected lawyers.
- Due to the sensitivity of the cases and to maintain professional ethics, most lawyers however, may not be willing to share information on cases especially if they are ongoing cases.
- Be aware of geographical barriers and location specific challenges. For example, Mullaitivu is a district in which civil administration began after the end of the war in 2009 and the population is slowly moving towards the formal court system. Reporting of SGBV is also low in this area according to police statistics and the High Court jurisdiction of cases from Mullaitivu district is in Vavuniya. Such issues may lead to difficulties in maintaining uniform data across cases and locations.
- It is more suitable to have lawyers or those with a strong legal background for data collection, especially for conducting court observations. On the other hand, experienced counselors should ideally be used to help obtain victim's narratives. This means that a substantial level of research related training must be given to professionals of other fields, for example lawyers and counselors.
- Delays within the court process should be factored when deciding on a duration for data collection (especially for court observation). For example, observing a single case during a six-month data gathering phase would be insufficient to paint an accurate picture of the case as there is usually a long time-lapse between hearings of SGBV related (penal) cases. However, due to procedural implications, domestic violence cases (civil) are called for hearing within a shorter time lapse.

Disseminating findings

- Wide distribution of full research findings might not be the most appropriate way to disseminate research findings. Strategically selected distribution of the reports / selected findings should be done among selected stakeholders or stakeholder categories such as judges, lawyers and law students, state counsel and the Attorney General's Department, and other stakeholders in the formal justice sector.
- Dissemination through closed-door meetings with selected experts connected to the formal justice sector is also a suitable way to discuss issues and concerns brought on from the findings in a more diplomatic manner than seeming to openly critique the same. Convening peer groups or like-minded individuals at a time would be useful.
- Lengthy reports and detailed publications with extensive information is, unfortunately, becoming a thing of the past. Therefore, it is important to constantly stay abreast of new methods for data presentation and use modern tools and online dissemination platforms to share findings.
- Converting findings into audio-visual products, stories, infographics, case studies and other bite-sized information pieces, may ensure that they have a wider reach, depending on the target population.

AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY

Awareness raising, media outreach and advocacy formed a main component of the project as there was a need to feed the discourse around SGBV, especially in terms of justice sector responses. This work was extensive and three-fold: through physical outreach measures (discussions, awareness programs, trainings, workshops and street theatre performances); online and social media (campaigns on Facebook, Instagram, and applications such as 2six4) and mainstream media (newspaper advertisements and television talk shows). The main aim of these media components was to bring a face to the discourse on sensitive and equitable formal justice sector responses and provide a strong visual identifier that directly links to the SGBV work being done through this project. Information disseminated was directed at the formal justice sector, among the public and community as well as potential victim survivors.

Multiple modes such as online and offline platforms were used to communicate material, since campaign material appearing on multiple platforms amplifies the key messages we were trying to convey. However, some of our experience on gender justice awareness and advocacy could be presented under these separate headings: physical outreach, social media outreach, mainstream media outreach and other learnings.

Physical outreach

- Awareness programs directed at informing the community on reporting violence and accessing legal redress, might have to allocate a considerable portion of the training sessions to inform participants of their rights and the laws they can access as they have limited knowledge of these.
- Street theatre or using forms of drama and theatre are useful in simplifying complex messages and reaching a wide audience from different literacy and socio-economic levels.
- Methods such as forum theatre where there is input and participation from the audience, or organized plays might be more effective, as the audience is invited, aware of the purpose of the performance and remain throughout the performance and are therefore able to understand the full performance, unlike street theatre where the audience is random at the given time and place, and therefore may not remain for the full performance.
- It is useful to distribute leaflets with self-explanatory information and methods to reach service providers at physical events and programs, in case participants may not be able to remain for the full program and might leave without receiving the total or correct message.

Social media outreach

- It is useful to keep in mind that while certain trends in social media content show some shift in attitudes of young/er generations (regarding patriarchal and outdated views on sexuality, gender and SGBV), social media content is also used to reinforce normative ideas about sex and gender.
- Social media campaigns can be a powerful tool in advocating and promoting for elimination of SGBV as they can reach a large number of users, potentially more than other methods. This is also true for the Sri Lankan context as social media use and penetration has increased in recent years.
- A relative state of stability is required however, for social media campaigns, as those carried out through this project were at a time of continuous disruptions of social and political life which resulted in social media bans, state of misinformation; and was at a time where issues around SGBV became invisible along other 'greater' issues faced by the country.

Mainstream media outreach

- It is useful to conduct mainstream media activities as they reach an underserved demographic that is not reached through the social media campaign – people with little access to smart devices that enable them to access social media, those in rural areas as well as housewives/women not engaged in the workforce.
- WIN also noted that in the months parallel to the campaign, women seeking services from their centers, online systems and helpline increased, which could be a direct result of the reach of the campaign.
- Mainstream media also proved to be a useful tool to reach a wide audience during the COVID19 lockdown, to disseminate information and guidance on understanding domestic violence and reaching services during a pandemic context.

Other learnings

- One of the main learnings was that considering the formal justice sector as a demographic of its own and having targeted messaging might not be the most effective way in terms of dissemination. Therefore, this sector was considered as a demographic which intersects with other demographics and reflects all other reader/viewer/listener habits and impulses.
- There is low prioritization of gender and women's issues in the justice sector which leads to low awareness among legal practitioners and those in the sector. Besides the legal aspects of sexual crimes and domestic violence, the socio-cultural and contextual realities of these crimes are not formally taken up in legal education.
- There have only been ad hoc attempts to raise awareness and sensitize the judiciary, prosecutors, and private Bar. Most programs targeting the justice sector have been issue based (for example when the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 2005 was introduced) or been driven by interested parties such as NGOs and organizations working with victim survivors.
- Organizational visibility and visibility activities should be carried out with caution and discretion, and these restrictions should be communicated (to the donor) early. For example, the project mainly dealt with those in the formal justice sector which is a hierarchical and sovereign system where external influence is looked down upon, needing visibility to be kept to a minimum.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER NETWORKING

The project worked with a wide range of individuals, organizations and institutions working on the prevention of and response to violence against women. While there are many key players (from various sectors such as health, security, justice, education and media) to effectively respond to victim survivors, there is little coordination, sustained commitment and sensitivity among them. For the justice sector, there are many actors from the police to the judiciary; from investigation to sentencing; from counselling to legal aid; and from victim and witness protection to shelter services. While each of these actors must deal with the victim only at one particular point, the victim has to deal with this entire system and almost all these various actors through a very intimidating process.

The following points highlight some of our experiences from working with various stakeholders from the justice sector and our learnings.

- Most individuals that make up this sector still have patriarchal and outdated views about women, their role in society and about violence against women, and their response may reflect these views, clouding and hindering effective response towards victim survivors.
- Justice sector stakeholders within the formal redressal process showed many positive practices when dealing with victims of violence, especially child victims. However, neither positive nor negative practices in this regard are standardised and were found to depend very much on the individual judge or on a case by case basis.
- Finding gender justice champions from the formal justice sector itself is difficult as most are reluctant or perceive that they are professionally unable to be overtly involved in speaking about or championing as advocates and gender sensitive legal practitioners.
- It is useful to explore other ways of finding champions from the sector, such as reaching specific groups within the sector (legal practitioners already working on women's rights and gender justice, though they are few and far between), law students, aspiring legal practitioners and new lawyers.
- Besides the technical aspects of the law, legal education in Sri Lanka does not have a special focus on gender justice or gender sensitivity. It is useful to explore ways in which these issues can be institutionalized into legal education or in the least, to have programs to gender sensitize and engage law students and to introduce such concepts at an early and influential stage in their learning and careers.
- Institutes offering law qualifications in Sri Lanka expressed interest and willingness to facilitate such sessions for their law students and the students were mostly positive about this, as they expressed interest, curiosity to learn, and actively participated in the discussions.
- Engaging with forums such as the National Law Conference, Junior National Law Conference, National Law Students Conference and other forums organized by the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, Law College of Sri Lanka, and other bodies is also useful as these gather many legal professionals.
- Most students of law do not have a full understanding of the potential of having a law qualification and have little career guidance in this regard. Therefore, sharing various experiences from the profession is a useful way to reach them and instill a 'gender-lens' in them.
- Gender sensitivity could also be brought in as a useful skill to possess in becoming a legal practitioner. A multi-sectoral perspective can be presented through introducing students to gender sensitive legal practitioners from legal academics, private lawyers, state counsel, legal aid lawyers, to development practitioners.
- Using existing networks and familiar partners is also a helpful way to reach a wider community and their sub-networks. For example, networks of Divisional Secretaries, Women Development Officers (WDO), community leaders, grass-root level CSOs and change makers, youth groups, women societies, elderly groups and other local level partners.

SERVICE PROVISION

Women In Need (WIN) was the main service provider and local partner for this project as WIN has extensive experience in providing holistic assistance to victim survivors of SGBV. That is, not just in terms of psycho-social support or legal assistance, but also in terms of crisis assistance, shelter services, economic empowerment and advocacy on behalf of victims. WIN was provided with core support to enable service provision to victims and took the lead on many aspects of the project, including the court observation research, social media campaigns and other outreach programs. Learnings and experiences

listed below are mainly informed by best practices from working closely with WIN in the implementation of this project.

- Local organizations that work and interact directly with victim survivors of SGBV, often do so with limited resources.
- Donor assistance and development aid is often project or activity based, with little core support provided to local organizations to carry out main tasks in addition to project activities. This can drain limited organizational resources; therefore, it is important to factor in core support for local organizations at the outset.
- It is also important to support continuous service provision (counselling, legal assistance and representation) and ensure these run concurrent to other project interventions such as media campaigns that may draw many new clients and to ensure that victims receive the immediate services they need.
- Staff who provide services to victims, such as counselors and lawyers, need frequent capacity building, skills development and an opportunity to share and learn from each other. This can be done through periodic needs assessments to identify evolving needs; refresher trainings; updating staff knowledge in line with external developments or changes (for example, new developments in laws, on handling emerging challenges like violence perpetrated online, IT skills to provide remote assistance to victims during a pandemic); by creating a space for staff to come together and discuss the challenges they face and the practices they have adopted; as well as through peer review and engagement.
- Staff wellbeing should also be made a priority for organizations providing services to victims as such service providers are exposed to a more-than-normal number of stories of abuse and violence. Some staff, including legal aid lawyers, are also directly threatened and intimidated by perpetrators when appearing against them. Therefore, organizational safety nets should be maintained.
- Organizations providing services over time have extensive experience in dealing with such issues and may have a lot of information to share. These experiences can be curated to form a guideline for the organization itself or to be shared with similar organizations. The project developed a handbook on providing victim-centric services curating the experience of WIN.
- Organizations that provide direct assistance to victims are usually unable to take time off from their demanding work and reflect on the work they do or conduct research that could then be used for advocacy. Therefore, it is useful to provide organizations with such an opportunity for research and reflection.
- It is also beneficial and enriching to conduct such project interventions in a wider geographical spread and to reach a wide and diverse population from around the country.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING

The capacity building initiatives of this project targeted three main categories: (1) capacity building for formal justice sector personnel to enable them to be gender-sensitive in their response to cases of SGBV, (2) capacity building for local organizations and staff to provide enhanced services to victim survivors, and (3) capacity building for local communities including victim survivors of violence to hold the formal justice sector accountable.

Formal justice sector

- Conducting awareness raising for the judiciary and facilitating judicial training is a very challenging task as the system is hierarchical, and there are layers of permission and protocol that need to be sought and met. Further, there is an unwritten rule that in Sri Lanka, only judges can train other judges, which poses practical difficulties, one in reaching judges who are willing to train on issues of SGBV, and two, the limited number of judges interested in training other judges on this issue, and although allowed, the ineffectiveness of international experts to train on SGBV as the local context can be very different.
- Technological and technical capacity development is also useful for the formal justice sector, though it may not be practically applied, as the sector itself appears slow to take up innovative technological means to document and organize cases.
- While systematic data collection for analytical decision making is difficult within existing systems within the formal justice sector, it is useful to work with justice sector institutions to inform and improve their own data gathering and data storing systems for a more user-friendly and sustainable approach.
- It is also important to ensure that there is sufficient ownership of any technical input that is given to justice sector institutions, and that these systems will function even once donor assistance and project interventions end.
- It is sometimes difficult to reach all target groups within the justice sector for direct trainings and capacity building sessions. On such occasions, it is useful to develop session guides, prototype manuals and other course material in preparation and anticipation of an opening.

Service providers

- It is useful to organize capacity development for service providers as there is usually some isolation among those who work in different districts with little opportunity for teamwork, capacity building, updating their knowledge and coordinating among themselves.
- Staff who provide services to victims have much capacity within themselves that can be harnessed so that they can learn from each other and share their experiences.
- Building local capacities for evidence-based advocacy and organizational sustainability is also important. This can be done through listening to organizations and giving them an opportunity take a moment outside its routine service provision and collect and analyze data to better understand the wider environment they work in. Such evidence can also help the organization be introspective and commit to continue the project supported work even after conclusion.
- Adapting a multi-step process for designing and developing capacity building initiatives is also useful to enable several layers of issues and learnings to surface. One-on-one discussions with staff, needs assessments, consultative sessions and other forms of verbal and written feedback is helpful in this regard.

Community

- Capacity building and creating awareness among the community can mainly be done as described in the “Awareness and Advocacy” section above. However, it is useful to remember that reaching the community inclusive of beneficiaries, victims and perpetrators, is a multi-tiered process that requires progressive planning and careful execution.

F. Are we equipped to tackle future needs?

Looking back over the recent years, Sri Lanka is seeing change and progress in terms of responding to and addressing sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls. Persistent policy makers are addressing gender-based violence as part of national development priorities. Organizations working on the ground have increased awareness on these issues among the community. Dedicated service providers have helped many women come forward with their stories and provided much needed mental, physical, economic and legal support. Police officers' timely and thorough investigations have led to faster processes. Progressive lawyers and judges' practices and judgements have led to renewed faith in the justice process.

Yet, there are many challenges that still persist. Discriminatory socio-cultural perceptions and attitudes towards victims still continue. Victims still face hardships at the level of their community, police, courts and when seeking support. Perpetrators still enjoy impunity from their crimes, benefit from suspended sentences and get away with low compensation. Delays still exist within the legal redress machinery from delays at the level of police investigation, Attorney General's Department and during trial. In this context, seeking justice is still a difficult decision and an even harder journey for the victim survivor who is blamed for what occurred, re-victimized in the redress process and may not even receive due justice or compensation at the end of the whole process.

While we are trying to address the same socio-cultural, institutional and structural issues that delay and deny women and girls receiving justice, new challenges and issues continue to surface. Service providers speak of the changing nature and severity of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence against women. Issues like poverty and alcohol abuse that once were recognized as trigger factors are now taking the shape of new drugs and the sense of anonymity that online portals offer. Threats, violence and intimidation through digital and social media is increasing with rapid technological advancements and range from online bullying to extreme and revenge pornography, and lead to offline manifestations of violence. Other changes are also occurring in the changing nature of families and intimate relationships. Men and boys cannot be simply looked at as perpetrators to be punished or rehabilitated, but also as victims themselves and allies in making progressive change.

These changes and advancements in our social and technological fabric, are rapid. However, our understanding and the understanding of law enforcement, justice sector and other officials of these issues are slow, as is the response to address these. Laws, policies and response efforts remain unchanged or often reactive, short term and not very sustainable making it difficult to address long-term issues and encourage a holistic response not just from the justice sector. How do we then prepare ourselves to deal with the challenges of the future when we are still in denial and ignorance about the violence and discrimination women and girls face around the world? We, as the development community, should ask ourselves, if our resources, work plans, toolkits, budgets and log frames are indeed making a real difference, and if not, what more can we do?






Transformational change in society can be achieved if we continue to promote and work together towards gender equality through justice systems. Ensuring equal access to justice for all, equal treatment before the law, and treating sexual and gender-based violence and crime with the seriousness that it deserves, will no doubt create a significant change in society, beyond its justice system. This is the change we must strive for.



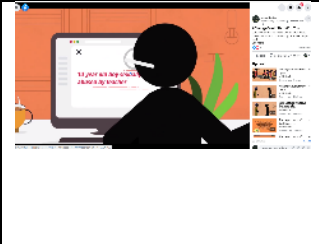
G. What publications and materials will have more information?




INSIDE JUSTICE PUBLICATIONS		
Cover	Title	Description
	<p><i>INSIDE JUSTICE: Ensuring Formal Justice Sector Responsibility and Accountability to Redress Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) against Women and Girls in Sri Lanka, Baseline Report</i></p> <p>By Udeni Thewarapperuma for the Asia Foundation (2018).</p>	<p>Baseline assessment on formal justice sector responses to SGBV on court procedures, judgments and sentencing, focusing on the locations of Matara, Galle, Jaffna, Mullaitivu and Colombo. Findings on: delays in the formal justice process, prevailing perceptions by those in the legal profession on cases of SGBV and false allegations, court experience and impact on the victim survivor. Provides detailed recommendations to address gaps, shortcomings, insensitivities and discrimination shown by the formal justice sector when handling SGBV cases.</p>
	<p><i>RESEARCH REPORT: Documenting Formal Justice Sector Responses to Cases of Sexual and Gender Based Violence Against Women and Girls in Selected Locations in Sri Lanka</i></p> <p>By Women In Need (2019).</p>	<p>Consolidated full report of the court observation and WIN experiences from working across courts covering Matara, Galle, Jaffna, Mullaitivu and Colombo. District-wise findings present positive and negative practices by formal justice sector personnel during the court process, and victims experiences of the process. Due to sensitivity of findings and recommendations, the full report is not made public, however, it can be accessed at WIN on request. Recommendations are also being used for WIN advocacy and outreach work.</p>
	<p><i>Why Accessing Justice is Challenging for Victims of Sexual and Gender Based Violence?</i></p> <p>By Women In Need (2019).</p> <p>(Available in Sinhala, Tamil and English)</p>	<p>Summary report consolidating the main research findings, common issues and challenges as well as victim experiences of the court process for cases of domestic violence and SGBV. Findings highlight the victim's experience before accessing the formal justice system, during court proceedings and trial as well as following the case. Recommendations provide useful and practical ways to navigate the formal justice process to enable a victim-centric response and interventions. The summary report is can be made available through request from WIN.</p>
	<p><i>INSIDE JUSTICE: Media Mapping, Final Report</i></p> <p>By Women and Media Collective (2019).</p>	<p>Media mapping study conducted over 20 weeks to map content in English, Sinhala, and Tamil language newspapers, online news and media platforms, popular social media pages/groups and TV news shows and talk shows. Mapping done to identify and analyze news pieces that discussed SGBV issues on local and international cases, advocacy-based content, analytical and investigative pieces; and to assess media content consumed by the justice sector on justice and SGBV. Report is available with WMC and TAF and can be shared on request.</p>

 <p>WHAT THE DATA SAYS: DOCUMENTING 4,000 CASES OF THE CHILD PROTECTION UNIT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT</p> <p>By The Asia Foundation for the Attorney General's Department (2020).</p>	<p><i>What the data says: Documenting 4,000 cases of the Child Protection Unit of the Attorney General's Department</i> By The Asia Foundation for the Attorney General's Department (2020).</p>	<p>Brief report of data analysis conducted on behalf of the Child Protection Unit of the Attorney General's Department documenting and analyzing selected data from 4,000 documented cases including statutory rape. The report was handed over to and is the property of the Department and is not for sharing.</p>
 <p>Handbook on Victim Assistance By The Asia Foundation for Women In Need (2020). (Available in Sinhala, Tamil and English)</p>	<p><i>Handbook on Victim Assistance</i> By The Asia Foundation for Women In Need (2020). (Available in Sinhala, Tamil and English)</p>	<p>Handbook developed consolidating the experiences of WIN in providing victim-centric and holistic services to victim survivors of domestic and SGBV. The handbook looks at contextual knowledge, values and principles in service provision as well as practical guidance for service providers. The handbook developed for WIN however, can be applied and used by those providing services to victim survivors and by the victims themselves.</p>
 <p>INSIDE JUSTICE: Making Courts Safe for Women Victims of Violence A Resource Book 2020</p> <p>By The Asia Foundation (2020)</p>	<p><i>INSIDE JUSTICE: Making Courts Safe for Women Victims of Violence</i> <i>A Resource Book</i> By The Asia Foundation (2020)</p>	<p>A Resource Pack for the Judiciary providing information, resources, training material and tools independently by The Asia Foundation. The pack has three main sections: case discussions based on video clips (eight clips in all three languages saved on a USB), case discussions based on eleven actual judgements; and further information and research including experiences gathered from the Inside Justice project. The Resource Book was handed over to the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute.</p>
 <p>INSIDE JUSTICE: Enabling justice for victim survivors of sexual and gender-based violence Notes for Legal Practitioners</p> <p>By The Asia Foundation (2021)</p>	<p><i>INSIDE JUSTICE: Enabling justice for victim survivors of sexual and gender-based violence</i> <i>Notes for Legal Practitioners</i> By The Asia Foundation (2021)</p>	<p>A brief publication consolidating findings from the Inside Justice project targeted towards legal practitioners and justice sector stakeholders including judges, lawyers, prosecutors, and law students. Report includes positive and negative justice sector practices observed during the project, challenges faced by victims, practical guidance for legal professionals to provide victim-centric assistance and global best practices. This document can be made available on request.</p>
 <p>INSIDE JUSTICE: Enabling justice for victim survivors of sexual and gender-based violence Sharing of The Asia Foundation's Experiences</p> <p>By The Asia Foundation (2021)</p>	<p><i>INSIDE JUSTICE: Enabling justice for victim survivors of sexual and gender-based violence</i> <i>Sharing of The Asia Foundation's Experiences</i> By The Asia Foundation (2021)</p>	<p>This publication, consolidating the main lessons learnt from the Inside Justice project with the intention of providing guidance and tips for those in the development sector and those working on addressing justice sector responses to SGBV. The report is available in Sinhala, Tamil and English.</p>

INSIDE JUSTICE MEDIA CAMPAIGN MATERIAL





Image	Title	Description
	<p>Inside Justice Facebook Page</p>	<p>Social media platform to collect and share information for legal practitioners and those in the formal justice sector who work on issues faced by women on positive practices, new developments, tips and tools on sensitive responses to cases of SGBV. Page maintained by the Inside Justice team. facebook.com/InsideJustice2017</p>
	<p>If you were her, what would you do?</p>	<p>Teaser phase of the wider social media campaign on justice for victims of SGBV. This was hosted on the 2six4 Facebook page maintained by WIN. It contained a series of posts in all three languages to get people to think about what their response to SGBV would be and to gauge if a legal remedy was preferred. facebook.com/2six4/photos</p>
	<p>Laws and legal remedies</p>	<p>The main phase of the social media campaign to create awareness on laws, legal remedies and justice sector practices in cases of SGBV. This was hosted on the 2six4 Facebook page maintained by WIN. It contained a series of posts and videos in all three languages on applicable penal and civil offences that are SGBV in nature and how victims can access the justice system. facebook.com/2six4/videos</p>
	<p>#whatnow</p>	<p>This campaign was mainly to share research findings of the study <i>Why Accessing Justice is Challenging for Victims of Sexual and Gender Based Violence?</i> By WIN and to guide and encourage people to access legal remedies for SGBV. Trilingual posts and videos were maintained on WIN Facebook page and a dedicated website www.whatnowsrilanka.org that has since been taken down. Video: facebook.com/womeninneeds1/videos/489986084919827 Posts: facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=womeninneeds1&set=a.2622158371173674</p>
	<p>#changepossible</p>	<p>Campaign initiated by Women and Media Collective to share trilingual information on social media specifically targeting the formal justice sector. The campaign had several phases including a series of posts on ‘did you know’, ‘myths and facts’ and information snippets sharing positive practices, learnings, legal remedies and possible solutions. Bystander intervention and action against SGBV was encouraged and highlighted through the campaign tagline #changepossible facebook.com/womenandmediacollective/photos/2561250993896643</p>

	<p>Remote services during the pandemic</p>	<p>Campaign to provide information to women trapped in their homes with abusive husbands, partners, and family members due to COVID-19 restrictions. The trilingual posts carried information on access health, security and justice services and were shared on social media and through emergency essential packages distributed through community partners. web.facebook.com/InsideJustice2017/photos/pcb.3445272855580285/3445272345580336</p>
	<p>Violence against Women is Not a Game</p>	<p>Trilingual newspaper and social media campaign to get the reader to think, act and make a change in responding to SGBV. The series of 4 adverts showcase a wordsearch dealing with SGBV covered under local legislation; a crossword looking at legal remedies; a bingo highlighting common responses that impact victims; and a maze that looks at the roadblocks along a victim's path to justice. web.facebook.com/InsideJustice2017/photos/pcb.439476286159942/3439473522826885</p>
	<p>The Road to Justice</p>	<p>Trilingual short animated audio-visual clip on the challenging journey of a victim who accesses justice and the stakeholders that she encounters in the process. The videos were shared at various events and on Facebook. facebook.com/InsideJustice2017/videos/1178537705910996</p>

MAINSTREAM MEDIA AND TELEVISION SPOTS		
Image	Title	Description
	<p>WIN Sinhala program on support to victims of SGBV telecast on Rupavahini</p>	<p>Program broadcasted on national television, targeting specially women and potential victims of violence and the general population. WIN lawyers discussed WIN Services, SGBV laws, legal remedies available and WIN success stories to empower victims to access justice. The program was in Sinhala and is available on social media. youtu.be/fdVSLA13120</p>
	<p>WIN Tamil program on support to victims of SGBV telecast on Chanel Eye</p>	<p>This program was broadcasted on national television in Tamil, to reach a wide general population including women and potential victims. Similar to the above program, WIN lawyers shared information on WIN services, applicable SGBV laws and success stories and to empower victims to access justice.</p>
	<p>Harassment and Violence in the midst of COVID-19: AN UNSPOKEN PANDEMIC</p>	<p>WIN program on domestic violence during the pandemic aired on television on NewsFirst and subsequently shared on its Facebook page. First responders (WIN, health and police officials) highlighted the issues and assistance for domestic violence during the pandemic. facebook.com/NewsfirstSL/videos/1240037936329370</p>

	<p>An advertisement on domestic violence on bystander intervention (Sinhala)</p>	<p>WIN Sinhala adverts on domestic violence during the COVID-19 lockdown encouraging bystander intervention and reporting. The adverts were telecast on television and shared on social media. facebook.com/womeninneeds/videos/655846761762355</p>
	<p>An advertisement on domestic violence on bystander intervention (Tamil)</p>	<p>WIN Tamil adverts on domestic violence during the COVID-19 lockdown encouraging bystander intervention and reporting. The adverts were telecast on television and shared on social media. facebook.com/womeninneeds/videos/655846761762355 https://fb.watch/4rSitr2mT3/</p>
	<p>#Whatnow advertisement on Channel Eye during English news</p>	<p>This campaign was mainly to share research findings of the study <i>Why Accessing Justice is Challenging for Victims of Sexual and Gender Based Violence?</i> The video series were followed by a social media campaign and broadcasted as an advertisement to reach more mainstream media users. facebook.com/womeninneeds/videos/489986084919827</p>

ARTICLES DEVELOPED THROUGH INSIDE JUSTICE

Image	Title	Description
	<p><i>Seven Questions to Consider When Promoting Gender Justice in Sri Lanka</i> InASIA</p>	<p>Article published on The Asia Foundation blog to highlight the Inside Justice project and some learnings when working on justice for SGBV victims in Sri Lanka. https://asiafoundation.org/2018/06/06/seven-questions-to-consider-when-promoting-gender-justice-in-sri-lanka/</p>
	<p><i>Women in Need, Sri Lanka: Protector of women and girls</i> Daily FT</p>	<p>Article developed and published by WIN focusing on WIN, its existence in Sri Lanka and services that WIN provides to victims of SGBV. ft.lk/opinion/Women-In-Need--Sri-Lanka--Protector-of-women-and-girls/14-674267?fbclid=IwAR1OpTr0yxTXKvOPhIQhMCTMrrz9sTBtUsX4wpVmercZUi6lXfd1B0pJmNs</p>
	<p><i>Access to justice for women in Sri Lanka: A true WIN-WIN story</i> Daily FT</p>	<p>Article published by WIN on SGBV and issues around accessing justice for victims. The article discusses emerging SGBV issues in Sri Lanka such as cybercrimes and the legislation available to protect women and victims of violence. ft.lk/other-sectors/Access-to-justice-for-women-in-Sri-Lanka--A-true-WIN-WIN-story/57-675605</p>
	<p><i>How the Sri Lankan Legal System Can Help Victims of Abuse?</i> Roarmedia English, Sinhala and Tamil.</p>	<p>The article highlighted types of SGBV common in Sri Lanka and legal remedies available for victims of such violence. Articles were in roar.media/english/life/features/how-the-sri-lankan-legal-system-can-help-victims-of-abuse</p>

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This publication was compiled to document all the project activities and the learnings from engaging with the formal justice sector in Sri Lanka on understanding and responding to the realities of women and girl victims of sexual violence. We understand that there is no one-size-fits-all approach, but we hope our experience can benefit other individuals and organizations in similar work or for future work to be carried out by The Asia Foundation Sri Lanka. While this publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union, it does not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

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