



Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment During Covid-19: How The Church in Sri Lanka Can Respond.

A Resource from the Board of Women's Work
Church of Ceylon



November 2021

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www.dioceseofcolombo.lk

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Foreword

The COVID pandemic and the several lockdowns brought families to spend time together in a way that they had not done before.

Prior to the pandemic people went about their lives and spent calculated time at home.

In housing which is compact and people unable to move around freely, members of each family felt each other's presence more than ever before.



Sri Lanka has always tried to address the issue of child maltreatment and the exploitation of women in their own working and living settings.

It is timely that the Board of Women's Work (BOWW) has decided to highlight areas of maltreatment and create awareness of the law of the land to which children and women could find recourse to justice.

We always think it is important to educate the girl child but, it is even more important to train the boy child in the rights and responsibilities of gender and roles.

This publication will no doubt create awareness and I am thankful to the BOWW for taking the trouble to prepare this document.

Let us affirm the right of everyone to live with dignity and enjoy the freedoms that are enshrined in the instruments of our laws and statutes that safeguard each and every persons' right to be and function irrespective of gender, class, age and social standing.

**The Right Reverend Dushantha Rodrigo
Bishop of Colombo**

Introduction

Covid-19 has significantly changed the lives of people around the world in the past two years. Sri Lanka has been part of this 'shared experience', adjusting to a new normal from the beginning of 2020. For some, restrictions such as the lockdowns imposed by governments to secure the safety of the public have been a positive experience. However, it can be observed that as a result, there is an increased unequal distribution of resources in the island, limiting employment and educational opportunities for some communities and families, exposing them to dangers such as a lack of quality education, poor opportunity for personal development, malnutrition and poverty.

Many carers and parents have experienced increased stress due to additional responsibilities such as homeschooling, loss of livelihood and income and managing both household and career demands. These circumstances have led to a complex set of mental health and psychosocial difficulties. Moreover, many women and children around Sri Lanka have been subject to domestic violence, child abuse and maltreatment.

The most vulnerable communities have been severely affected by the pandemic, worsening their situation, such as the elderly without proper care, children in unsafe environments and those in abusive relationships. Forced proximity to an abusive person for prolonged periods of time, the disruption of protective networks, stress due to added responsibility and financial burdens, lack of livelihood and income as well as decreased access to social and health services have contributed to an increase in incidents of maltreatment and violence which have serious implications.

Sri Lankan statistics on gender based violence forwarded by the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS, 2019) reveal that one in four women in Sri Lanka have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a partner or a non-partner. Meanwhile, two in every five women have suffered physical, sexual, emotional, and/or economic violence and/or controlling behaviours by a partner. Instances of physical violence are reportedly highest in the estate sector.

According to research findings of the United Nations (UN), incidents of gender based violence have steadily increased over the world since the beginning of the pandemic (UN, 2020) and these findings are similar to what is observed in the Sri Lankan context (Daily Mirror, 2020). Contrary to the cultural notion that women are respected and esteemed, the 'home' has been deemed to be an unsafe place for many Sri Lankan women.



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Statistics from the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) reveal that in Sri Lanka, 8,165 cases of child abuse was reported in 2020, varying from sexual abuse, neglect, child labour and other categories of cruelty to children, with numbers steadily increasing over the years (NCPA, 2021). A sudden increase in these complaints rising from 10% to 40% was observed in the three week period between 16th March to 7th April 2020 upon imposing the first island wide lockdown on 20th March 2020 (UNICEF, 2020).

"The body of Christ has no arms and feet but ours" ~ Amos Smith

In this climate of great suffering, God calls each of us as His church to respond as He would; to grapple with these issues as a responsible community of Christ, to develop a nuanced understanding of the causes and impacts (antecedents and consequences) of these problems and respond with a blend of love, mercy and justice of our Father God.

As we lean on God's Word and learn from Him **1 Corinthians 13: 1-14** reminds us the most 'excellent' way of love, which surpasses any act of giving or spiritual feat. This love, when guided by God's Holy Spirit begins with us and pours out to a hurting world, selflessly, unhesitantly and unconditionally.

This resource seeks to help us as a community of faith to understand the context of gender based violence and violence against children in Sri Lanka and guide us on how we can each respond as the body of Christ, in keeping with global best practice. While the measures detailed as good practice in this resource work equally for male and female victims and survivors of gender based violence, this resource will highlight and refer to women and children specifically.

Looking to God's Word: What does the Bible Teach us?



Chuddikulam, Sri Lanka | © Dimithra Gamalathge

'The Lord examines the righteous, but the wicked and those who love violence, His soul hates' (Psalm 11:5). Scripture teaches us about God's heart and from the beginning it has been made clear that He operates in love. He created us so He could love us and we could love each other and He urges us to do the same. By creating us in His own Image He calls us to live with mutual respect and by placing freewill within us He gives us the freedom to choose. Love and violence against women and children are mutually exclusive, therefore any form of violence be it physical, emotional, verbal or financial is a dishonoring of God's image in the woman or child and is willful disobedience to God.

Gender based violence and child maltreatment takes place as a result of the disruption of the model God has laid down for our relationships with each other. Jesus who came to seek and save the lost, by His example, showed radical love for the vulnerable and victims of all types of violence and abuse and restored their shattered dignity.

The Call to Advocacy

Isaiah 1: 17 is a clear call to us as a people of God to go beyond mere religious practices to speak out and raise a voice on behalf of the vulnerable, *'Learn to do right, seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow'*.

This is further supported in the Gospels. **Mark 10: 14** shows us how Jesus actively pleaded for the cause of little children. When His disciples were angered by the children being brought to Him, Jesus was indignant and responded by teaching them that unless we develop childlike faith and trust we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven, He then went on to put His hands on them and bless them.

Likewise in **John 13: 34**, we see how He spoke up for the sinful woman who was to be stoned, forgave her, guided her and saved her life from her accusers and destroyers, being the only person present who was worthy of casting a stone.

"Love is not a means to an end,
it is an end in itself"
~Dr. Ajith Fernando

The Call to Honour God's Image

Genesis 1: 27 - *'And God created man in His own Image; in the Image of God He created him; male and female He created them'.*

The Biblical injunction here is to see all persons as equal in the sight of God and recognize that God created both man and woman in His Image, both with equal value and worth (though differing in roles and responsibilities) leaving no room for domination and victimization of one by the other.

Galatians 3: 28 - *'There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, **male nor female**, for you are all one in Christ Jesus'.*

The New Testament affirms the equality of all humankind, reaffirming the Genesis account and calls us to recognize that although society often stratifies some as having less worth than others, even the weakest and most vulnerable are just as valuable as anyone else in God's community as we all bear the Image of God.

Likewise, **Romans 12: 10** remind us to honour one another above ourselves and **Malachi 2: 14** informs us that God acts as a witness between a man and a woman. God sees what happens behind closed doors, He alone is the righteous judge and holds us accountable for our actions.

In our journey of growing in a covenant relationship with God, although we are not condemned by the sins we commit as imperfect people, if we sin deliberately, if we fail to do what is required of us in response to the love God has shown, if we are not convicted of our sinfulness and repent, we are in danger of grieving the Father's heart. (**Exodus 20, Romans 3: 23, Hebrews 10: 26-31**).

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence includes physical, sexual and/or emotional harm or suffering caused by a spouse or partner to the other. While domestic violence victimizes both men and women, studies show that there is an increased prevalence of violence against women and a culture of tolerance of the same in Sri Lanka (DCS, 2019).

Domestic violence includes but is not limited to: battering, sexual abuse (including female children), harassment and intimidation, rape (including marital rape), trafficking, forced prostitution, harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation and digital violence such as stalking, bullying, threatening and threats of such violence (UN, 2020). Surprisingly, women are more likely to be subject to violence by a partner than a non-partner and even when it comes to non-partners the perpetrators are more often male family members. (DCS, 2019).

Legal Provisions and their Parameters

The Prevention of Domestic Violence Act No. 34 of 2005 along with the Penal Code are some of the important Acts which provide redress to domestic violence.

The said Act defines Domestic Violence as an act which constitutes;

- An offence under Chapter XVI of the Penal Code (offences affecting the human body/ offences affecting human life)
- Extortion
- Criminal Intimidation or
- Even an attempt to commit any of the above offences.

As per Section 2 of the said Act, a victim or a person who is likely to become a victim of domestic violence could make an application to the Magistrate's Court for a protection order for the prevention of such domestic violence. The Act further enables the said application to be made by any aggrieved person and if the aggrieved person is a child, a parent or a guardian or a person who resides with the child or an authorized person could make such application on behalf of the child.

“Violence against women is one of the most pervasive human rights violations that impacts the progression and wellbeing of women and girls” ~ DCS, 2019

The Act further provides for interim measures against wrongdoers prohibiting the wrongdoers from committing any further domestic violence and may even direct parties to attend family counselling if it is in their best interest.

Additionally, supplementary orders could be requested and granted to remove any weapons from the abuser and also to engage social support such as probation officers, family health workers, counselors etc. to monitor the case and produce a report every three months to the court. It could also be granted by court for the aggrieved person to receive mandatory counselling and psychotherapy and rehabilitative therapy, to be accompanied by the police to visit the home etc.

However, the reality at grass root levels can often be different. It is only a few who are able to obtain justice and safety regardless of the written Acts in place. The pandemic exacerbated the situation and due to the lockdowns imposed, obtaining justice and safety from the official channels has become an impossibility with even the basic services being unavailable.

Moreover, in situations of domestic violence people are often reluctant to seek legal protection due to fear for their family's reputation, fear of retribution (backlash) from the abusive family member and also fear of judgement and condemnation from society for seeking legal action against a family member. This prevents many women from taking action to protect themselves and the children in their care.



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What is Child Maltreatment?

Child maltreatment is the abuse and neglect that occurs to children (under 18 years of age). It includes all types of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect (of basic needs such as food, water, shelter, love, rest), negligence and commercial or other exploitation, which results in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power (WHO, 2020).

Child maltreatment is an offense punishable by law.

According to the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA), Act no. 50 of 1998, Child abuse is any act or omission relating to a child, which would amount to a contravention of any of the provisions of:

1. Sections 286A, 288, 288A, 288B, 308A, 360A, 360B, 360C, 360D, 363, 364A, 365, 365A or 365B of the Penal Code:

Physical cruelty, inflicting psychological and mental trauma, sexual exploitation including sexual abuse (e.g. sexual harassment, exposure to age inappropriate sexual content), grave sexual abuse (use of sexual organs of one person on a child, without penetration) and rape, prostitution or hiring for procuring of children, trafficking, using children to traffick illegal substances, abandonment and illegal adoptions.

2. The Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act:
Ensures work does not hinder education and restricts work for children under 18 years while prohibits children being employed in hazardous occupations.

3. The Children and Young Persons Ordinance:
Details the jurisdiction of juvenile courts.

4. The Education Ordinance relates to compulsory education for children and cautions against the involvement of children in armed conflict which is likely to endanger the child's life or is likely to harm such child physically or emotionally.

However, It is observed that justice and safety can be luxuries that many individuals and families struggle to readily access in Sri Lanka. Children who are in the justice system may be exposed to further re-traumatization with their cases being protracted and in some cases having to be separated from family for their own safety.



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Tips for Practical Action: How the Church Can Respond

The church is the community of God. The church consists of you and me. As members of God's family; leaders, good neighbours, parents, aunts, uncles and young people, we are called upon by God, through the biblical mandate examined above to end this twin pandemic of violence against women and children.

Preventive Measures

Church Leaders

E.g. Priests, Sunday school teachers, wardens etc.

- Recognize that violence against women and children are problems that are prevalent within the church and heightened due to the pandemic. Take bold and practical measures to support families while praying for the safety of those vulnerable within the church **(John 17: 13-16)**.
- Commit to being educated on the psychological and legal aspects of current social problems that church members face, such as domestic violence, child abuse and other issues.
- Adopt a zero tolerance policy of violence and abuse both within the church and in all spheres of life.
- Be informed and conversant with the biblical standpoint realizing how and where biblical ethics differ from the societal and cultural views.

- Raise awareness among the membership about the psychosocial impacts of the pandemic, different support/ safety measures, coping mechanisms and appropriate responses which could be implemented and provided for members. Perhaps through the Sunday message, through Bible studies, during home visits and through general conversation with parishioners.
- Create a safety network amongst the church community through support groups or volunteer 'befrienders' (church members trained in basic psychosocial skills) who can be approached for help. Consciously nurture a general sense of concern among the congregation where each one looks to the welfare of the other under the leadership of the clergy.
- Be present in the lives of people, interact, engage and connect with each other, especially with those who are marginalized, creating environments where people can rely on each other for support, by way of a simple call or message, a friendly visit and regularly being in contact with each other and building trusting relationships (e.g. creating cell groups of 5 families who meet regularly (physically or virtually) or check on each other and grow in faith).

Families

- Commit to studying scripture, discussing and applying it practically as a family, being open to correction and change as inspired by new learning.
- Make it a priority to seek help to heal from past traumas, addictions and any other physical or psychological challenge that is encountered, in order to be able to be fully present for your family and follow the model that Christ has laid down for Christian family life in **Ephesians 5: 21-25**.

- Have the same values and standards equally for both male and female children and teach them both to respect and honor all people especially those who are weaker or vulnerable.
- Maintain a zero tolerance of violence (verbal, physical, psychological) in your family and apply this consistently among all members regardless of age, gender and position in the family.
- Keep lines of communication open between parents, adult carers and children. Invest time and energy in cultivating an open, honest, communicative and loving atmosphere in the home so everyone will feel safe to be themselves, enabled to express emotions freely, speak honestly and share their struggles without letting it build up into frustration leading to violence and abuse.
- Actively engage all members taking care to leave no one out for whatever reason.
- Prioritize spending quality time with family; having fun together, praying together and ensuring all stay connected so that strong bonds of love and respect will be established, which is the surest way to prevent violence in your home.
- If and when this is difficult due to already strained relationships or lack of social skills, be open to seeking friendly advice and support. Ask someone you can trust or look up the resources listed in this document, understanding that it is a sign of courage and strength to ask for help.

- Teach children from the time they are verbal (using age appropriate tools) about concepts such as their rights, respecting others rights, consent, privacy (e.g. private parts, using the the correct words for them etc.), how to protect themselves from danger, how to differentiate between right and wrong behaviour/ touch and right and wrong words and most importantly how to ask for help.
- Teach children who they can trust (safety net) and encourage them to communicate to a trusting adult when something is wrong even if they feel like they are responsible or guilty about it.
- Trust your children. Each word and behaviour communicates something. Try and understand this communication without being quick to judge or react.

Age appropriate tools and resources to teach children are available at LEADS and NCPA websites:

<https://www.leads.lk/resources/>

<http://www.childprotection.gov.lk/resource-centre/other-publications>

Convention on the rights of the child (OHCHR, 1990), to which Sri Lanka is a signatory, details all rights of children.

<https://www.ohchr.org/documents/professionalinterest/crc.pdf>

Age appropriate developmental information and conversation starters available at the UNICEF website:

<https://www.unicef.org/mental-health-on-my-mind>

Basic Psychosocial skills: A Guide for COVID-19 Responders available at :

<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/2020-05/Basic+Psychosocial+Skills-+A+Guide+for+COVID-19+Responders.pdf>

Schools / Teachers

- Implement child protection protocols/ policies with a framework guided by the national child safety guidelines and highest Christian ethics (for Christian schools) such as the Child Protection Policy of the Church of Ceylon.
- Protocols should detail guidelines for best practices for teaching and training children and caution against practices such as corporal punishment and abuse.
- Raise awareness regularly among parents, teachers and children on their rights and principles of good practice related to teaching and disciplining children (e.g. gentle parenting, non-punitive disciplining etc.), safety (online and otherwise) and how to handle situations that relate to domestic violence and child maltreatment.
- Keep lines of communication open between children and teachers creating environments where children feel safe to trust their teachers with the difficulties they face.
- Maintain a good ratio between school counselors and children and good relationships between them, in order to help children feel supported psychologically.

Child Protection Policy of the Church of Ceylon available at the Church of Ceylon, Diocese of Colombo Website:

<https://www.dioceseofcolombo.lk/downloads/category/3-policies-guidelines>

CERT Handbook on information security detailing online safety measures available at the CERT SriLanka website:

<https://www.cert.gov.lk/documents/Handbook.pdf>

Child friendly resources to support children in the context of COVID-19, available at:

<https://mhpss.net/toolkit/mhpss-and-eie/category/covid-19-response?subcategory=support-for-children-in-the-context-of-covid-19>



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Good Neighbours

- Be present in the lives of friends and family. Make time to spend time with them and listen to them.
- Practice confidentiality which is of utmost importance especially in the Sri Lankan culture.

- Keep conversations about domestic violence and child maltreatment alive and share knowledge on how people and communities can contribute to prevent violence, raise awareness and protect vulnerable communities.

Restorative Efforts

Church Leaders

- Influence the congregation to boldly but sensitively speak about and address these issues and create a culture of honest communication within the church family accompanied by strict respect for privacy and confidentiality
- Take them seriously (especially children) if a story of abuse, violence or maltreatment is narrated to you. Demonstrate empathy and commitment to support them with prayer and in practical ways. (Empathy does not mean understanding the full measure of people's grief and suffering and having the perfect advice/ solutions; rather, understanding it is difficult for them and choosing to walk alongside them until they arrive at a place where they feel more stable and safe.)
- Be non-judgemental, refrain from criticizing or condemning anyone but listen to all, being sensitive to the stigma that exist surrounding issues such as violence against women and children.
- Maintain confidentiality with regard to shared information unless self harm, suicidal or homicidal ideations or intent is involved.

- Refer to a relevant support network with the consent of the person or caregiver and walk alongside them, taking all measures to ensure their safety and the confidentiality of their story.
- Maintain all records of shared information and any evidence of the abuse/maltreatment (online or in the physical world).

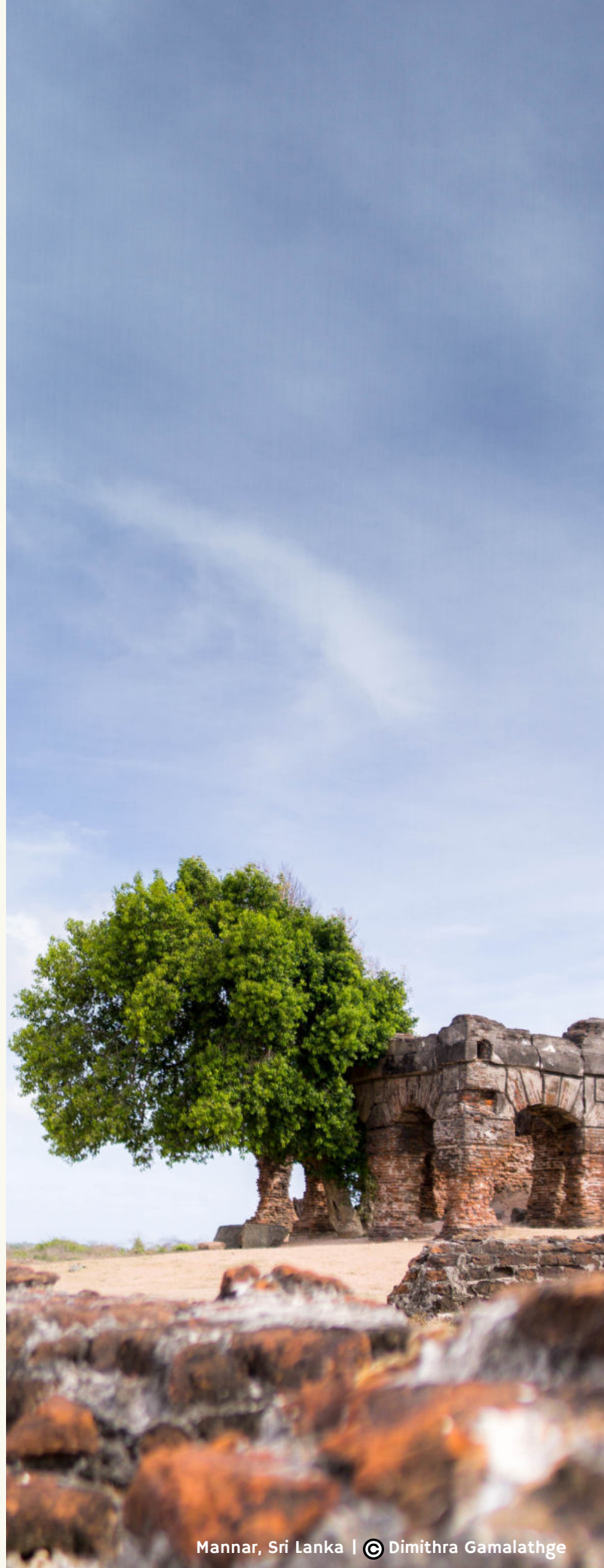
Families

- If violence, abuse or maltreatment is happening or has happened within the home or in homes of extended family, accept it, which can sometimes be painful. Denial leads to prolonged suffering, acceptance can pave the way for healing and restoration.
- Whether violence and maltreatment is happening in your home or in the homes of extended family consider it a matter of priority to reach out for professional help to one of the relevant support organizations listed below or to a trusted confidant who can help obtain the right support for both the victim/s and the perpetrator.
- Protect the side of the victimized person/s and prevent any further harm by using all means possible, addressing all of their needs (physical, psychological, social/ legal and spiritual).
- Understand that the safety, security and integrity of the victim of abuse/ violence is always more important than the reputation of the family. Seek justice and safety without shying away in order to protect the reputation of the family.
- Fight the urge to isolate yourself from society/ church to avoid uncomfortable questions. Know that as a family of God there are people who can help to carry this load with you with no judgement or condemnation.

- Understand that it is common for victims of long term (recurrent) violence to become accustomed to it and even justify it. Victims may even try to protect the abuser and feel it is their duty to do so. Recognize that this is part of the maladaptive way abuse affects thinking and reasoning and may even be manipulated by the abuser. Seek help or support the victim to recognize that what is happening to them is wrong and an offense which must stop.

Dealing with the perpetrator:

- Understand the complexity of this work, which needs professional guidance and counsel from trained persons. Getting help for the abuser/perpetrator is a priority.
- The central principle we as a Christian community believe is to “love the sinner but hate the sin”. Therefore clearly and irrevocably reject the act of violence and verbally state this while guiding the perpetrator to seek professional help.



Mannar, Sri Lanka | © Dimithra Gamalathge

- Stay committed to helping the perpetrator to reflect on their actions and attitudes, understanding there maybe underlying problems causing such maladaptive behaviour.
- Guide the perpetrator through the penalties of his actions from the law with God's mercy and grace to go through it. Lead them to find repentance and restitution through both a professional spiritual and psychological therapeutic process.
- Where possible keep the lines of communication open and maintain a warm and open relationship with such perpetrators in an effort to restore them. Find the best in them, see their strengths and encourage them to overcome the abusive parts of their nature while ensuring the safety of the victim.

School / Teachers

- Believe people/ children who trust you with information of abuse, domestic violence or maltreatment. Empathize with them and comfort them.
- Bring it to the attention of the school leadership with the consent of the person sharing the information, unless in an emergency situation where consent is not required.
- Connect to the school counselor or a trusted professional who can help them.
- If in the case of an emergency, with the consent of the person and with the counsel of the school's leadership, reach out to the relevant support organizations listed below ensuring the safety of the victimized is not any further compromised.

- Maintain records of evidence of the abuse/ maltreatment and any information shared.
- Keep highest confidentiality of shared information.

Good Neighbours

- Believe people/ children who trust you with information of abuse, domestic violence or maltreatment. Empathize with them and comfort them.
- Make every attempt to link those seeking help to reliable resources or support networks without dismissing them.
- If in the case of an emergency, with the consent of the person, reach out to the relevant support organizations listed below ensuring the safety of the victimized is not any further compromised.
- Maintain records of evidence of the abuse/ maltreatment and any information shared.
- Keep highest confidentiality of shared information. Confidentiality can be maintained by keeping identification information to your self even if their story is shared in order to receive help or prayer.
- Pray for and with them, giving them hope for the future, listening to them and meeting practical needs as best you can.
- Be aware of the psychosocial impact/burden of helping a neighbour in need. There may be instances where it is beyond our control and in such cases be open to receiving the right guidance and support for yourself and the other.



Weerawila, Sri Lanka | © Dimithra Gamalathge

What Not To Do

- Do not pass blame / judgement on the situation or person experiencing abuse/ maltreatment, which could cause people to hide their struggles.
- Do not excuse, condone or minimize the wrong doing through fear of the abuser or for any reason as it supports the continuation of the behaviour.
- Do not contact the abusers to verify information, maintain confidentiality of the shared information always.
- Do not take any action without the consent of the victim (unless it concerns a minor in an emergency situation).
- Do not make false promises of support that you cannot fulfill.
- Do not make use of the situation for your benefit.
- Do not provide a service otherwise needed professionally (e.g. legal advice, counselling etc.).

Support Networks



Koggala, Sri Lanka | © Dimithra Gamalathge

Child and Women Bureau - Sri Lanka Police

Address: 180/19 Grandpass Rd, Colombo 01400

Tele: 0112444444

Suwasariya Free Ambulance Service

In the case of physical Injury:

Dial 1990

National Child Protection Authority (NCPA)

Reporting violence against children.

Practical support to combat cyber violence against children through a specialized unit.

Resources such as age appropriate tools to teach children about safety.

Address: 330, Thalawathugoda road, Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte.

Tele: 0112778911

Website: <http://www.childprotection.gov.lk/>

Women in Need (WIN)

Legal and counselling services and respite residential centers for vulnerable women.

Address: 25 Tickell Road, Colombo 08

Tele: 011 4718585 (24 Hours)

Email: connect@winsl.net

Website: <https://www.winsl.net/>

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) - Sri Lanka

Chat-line for questions available on the website.

Free helpline:

Dial 1926

Website: <https://nimh.health.gov.lk/en/>

CCC Foundation

24 Hour free phone counselling:

Dial 1333

Website: <http://cccfoundation.org.au/>

Sumithrayo

Free counselling service.

Address: 60/7 Horton Place, Colombo 7

Tele: 0094 112682535

Email: info@srilankasumithrayo.lk

Website: <https://srilankasumithrayo.lk/>

Sri Lanka EMDR Association

Trauma- focused psychotherapy for children and adults.

Tele: 0714228358

Website: <https://www.emdrsrilanka.org/>

Sri Lanka National Association of Counselors

Counselling service.

Tele: 07010898473

Website: <https://www.srilnac.org/>

Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka

Legal assistance for vulnerable groups.

Address: 129, Hulfsdorp St. Colombo

Tele: 0112433618

Website: <http://www.legalaid.gov.lk/>

Child Protection Force

Legal assistance for vulnerable children and their families.

Address: No. 599/1/A/1, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatte, Battaramulla.

Tele: 0114 848 856 / 0 777 388 212

Website: <https://www.childprotectionforce.org/>

Leads Sri Lanka

Psychological, legal aid and respite residential support for vulnerable children.

Age appropriate tools to teach and empower children.

Address: 25, Hospital Road, Dehiwela

Tele: 0114954111

Helpline: 0757121212

Website: <https://www.leads.lk/>

Lama Piyasa - Colombo North Teaching Hospital Ragama.

Respite center for vulnerable children providing residential medical care, psychosocial aid and legal support.

Address: Department of Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine,

P.O. Box 6, Thalagolla Road, Ragama.

Tele: 0113179412 / 0112958337

Website:

<https://medicine.kln.ac.lk/depts/paediatrics/index.php/services/lama-piyasa>

The Grassrooted Trust

Aid to combat cyber violence.

Education on internet safety, reproductive health and rights.

Address: 365/1C Bataketiya Road, Udumulla, Mulleriyawa 10620, Sri Lanka

Tele: 076 34 88622

Email: trust@grassrooted.net

Sri Lanka CERT

Aid to combat cyber violence.

Resource: Handbook on Information Security.

Tele: 0112691692

Website: <https://www.cert.gov.lk>

CID Cyber Crime Unit

To combat cyber crime (adult victims).

Tele: 011 232 6979 (Direct Line)/ 011 232 0141 (general line).

Email: dir.cid@police.lk , telligp@police.lk

The Arka Initiative

Practical supports and education relating to sexual and reproductive health in Sri Lanka.

Website: <https://www.arkainitiative.org/>

Family Health Bureau

Practical supports and education relating to sexual and reproductive health in Sri Lanka including clinical services and services and resources for youth. Information desk at the centre

Tele: 0112 690 483

E-mail: fhbrhunit@gmail.com, info@fhb.health.gov.lk,
fhb.dmch@gmail.com

Website: <https://fhb.health.gov.lk/index.php/en/>

Shanthi Maargam

Free counselling service for young people.

Tele: 0717639898

Website: <https://shanthimaargam.org/>

National STD/AIDS Control Programme

Screening for STI (Sexually Transmitted Infections) with confirmatory testing, treatment of STI & PEP.

Website: <http://www.aidscontrol.gov.lk>

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