

## **A Brief note on Special Cells for Women and Children Haryana**

Domestic Violence remains one of the most prevalent yet largely invisible forms of violence. Contrary to the general belief, Domestic Violence is not restricted to certain social sections. Domestic Violence occurs in many forms- physical, emotional, sexual, economic, verbal, etc. Woman faces Domestic Violence as a daughter, sister, wife, mother, or a partner in her lifetime.

**As per the NCRB Report 2003, 36.1% of the total reported crimes against women relate to domestic violence. As per NFHS (2) 1998-99, 1 in 5 married women in India experience domestic violence from the age of 15.**

Prior to Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDV) Act 2005, under the civil law, for acts of domestic violence a married woman can initiate proceeding for divorce/ judicial separation. However, this fails to provide any kind of immediate relief and protection to the woman. She remains at the mercy of her parents/ relatives. Also it leads to problems of costs and delays in litigation. Most commonly used provision of criminal law in dealing with cases of Domestic Violence is Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code. It makes cruelty to a wife by her husband or relatives an offence and attracts a maximum punishment of three years on conviction. Limitation of this provision is that it is not aimed at providing reliefs, namely maintenance, shelter, etc. It is confined to the prosecution and possible conviction of the offender.

Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDV) Act 2005 recognizes the right of a woman to live in violence free home. Under the Act the following major reliefs are available:

**Protection Order [Section 18]:** Preventing the perpetrator from causing violence, preventing any communication with the woman, etc.

**Residence Order [Section 19]:** Allowing woman thrown out of the house to return to her house, ordering removal of perpetrator from shared house, etc.

**Monetary relief [Section 20]:** Payment of medical bills, any loss of belongings.

**Compensation order [Section 22]:** Compensation for injuries (mental and physical) sustained over and above the actual expenditure.

**Custody order [Section 21]:** A woman can also ask for temporary custody orders for her children.

Under the PWDV Act, Protection Officer as a facilitator helps woman: in registering complaints in DIR (Form I), filing applications before the Magistrate for orders (Form II), helping her in getting support like medical aid, shelter, legal aid, counselling, conducting field inquiries on court orders, making sure that the orders passed by the court are enforced, etc. Under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006, Prohibition Officer is responsible for preventing solemnisation of Child Marriages, creating awareness about the evils of Child Marriage, sensitising the community on the issue of Child Marriage, etc.

Special Cells for Women and Children is a Programme of the Department of Women and Children and Department of Home, Govt. of Haryana, to work on the issue of Domestic Violence against Women and Child Marriages. The Special Cells work towards ensuring that women and children are recognised as individuals, with equal rights and opportunities in society, including the opportunity to live peaceful violence-free life.

As provided under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 and Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 (PCM) Act, Deptt. of Women & Child Development Haryana has appointed full time Protection cum Child Marriage Prohibition Officer (PPO) on contract basis for each District (PPO Faridabad is having an additional charge as PPO Palwal). The Deptt. has also appointed one Consultant at headquarters to coordinate the work of PPOs and ensure effective implementation of PWDV Act and PCM Act in the State.

Since the nature of PPOs' responsibilities under PWDV Act and PCM Act require effective co-ordination with Police, Special Cells for Women and Children have been established in the Office of Superintendent of Police in each district, where the PPOs are located along with their subordinate staff to ensure effective implementation of PWDV Act and PCM Act.

Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) Mumbai is working as a resource and guiding agency for the Special Cells. TISS is performing multifarious tasks that include research and documentation, training and capacity

building of different stakeholders, participation in Policy Decisions for the Special Cells, etc.

The Deptt. has registered eight Service Providers under PWDV Act and number of organizations are in the process of being registered as Service Provider. All Govt. Hospitals, PHCs and CHCs have been notified as Medical Facility and three shelter homes have been notified under PWDV Act.

A monthly progress report in the prescribed format concerning implementation of PWDV Act and PCM Act is being received from PPOs at State Headquarters. The report on the implementation of PWDV Act is being sent to Govt. of India on quarterly basis in the prescribed format.

To give wide coverage to the provisions of PWDV Act, PPOs are regularly conducting awareness generation activities at District, Block and Village Level. Radio jingles are being played from the radio stations Chandigarh, Rohtak, Kurukshetra, and Hisar. The Deptt. has distributed folders and pamphlets to all PPOs for awareness generation activities. The Deptt. is also planning to start publicity campaign in newspapers.

**SPECIAL CELLS FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Protection cum Prohibition Officer (PPO)</b>	<b>Office Address</b>	<b>Mobile No.</b>
1	Ambala	Ms Sonia Sabharwal	Office of Superintendent of Police, Crime against Women Cell, Police Lines, Ambala City	9466121474
2	Bhiwani	Ms Savita Rana	Mini Secretariat, 1st Floor, Room No.76, Bhiwani	9466125250
3	Faridabad	Ms Hema Kaushik	Office of Superintendent of Police, Room No.503, Mini Secretariat, Faridabad	9210474464
4	Fatehabad	Ms Sunita	Office of Superintendent of Police, Room No.63, Mini Secretariat, Fatehabad	9466684079
5	Gurgaon	Ms Meena Kumari	Mini Secretariat, 3rd Floor, Room No.306, Gurgaon	9968902506
6	Hisar	Ms Babita Choudhary	Mini Secretariat, New IG Building, Above SDM Office, 2nd Floor, Hisar	9729011052
7	Jhajjar	Ms Madhvi Lochab	Office of Programme Officer (ICDS) Jhajjar	9996051132
8	Jind	Ms Krishna	Office of Superintendent of Police, Old Mini Secretariat, Jind	9466125312
9	Kaithal	Ms Sunita	Mahila Thana, Police Post, Near DSP Residence, Karnal Road, Kaithal	9813453138
10	Karnal	Ms Pinki	Office of Superintendent of Police, Room No.25, Karnal	9466111500
11	Kurukshetra	Ms Deepshikha	Office of Superintendent of Police, Kurukshetra	9315010005
12	Mahendragarh	Ms Sarita	Office of Superintendent of Police, Room No.16, Mini Secretariat, Narnaul	9466117028
13	Mewat	Ms Madhu Jain	Office of Superintendent of Police, Mewat at Nuh	9992367666
14	Panchkula	Ms Jaspreet Kaur	DSP City Office, Sector 12, Panchkula	9855699993
15	Panipat	Ms Rajni Gupta	Office of Superintendent of Police, New Grain Market, Panipat	9729022757
16	Rewari	Ms Neelam Sharma	Office of Superintendent of Police, 1st floor, Secretariat, Rewari	9416327237
17	Rohtak	Ms Karminder Kaur	Thana Civil Lines, Near Police Lines, Rohtak	9466106100
18	Sirsa	Ms Sadhna Mittal	Office of Superintendent of Police, Room No.22, Sirsa	9812031086
19	Sonepat	Ms Bhanu Gaur	Office of Superintendent of Police, Mini Secretariat, Sonepat	9466111474
20	Yamunanagar	Ms Seema Garg	Office of Superintendent of Police, Room No.311B, 2nd Floor, Mini Secretariat, Yamunanagar	9466179955