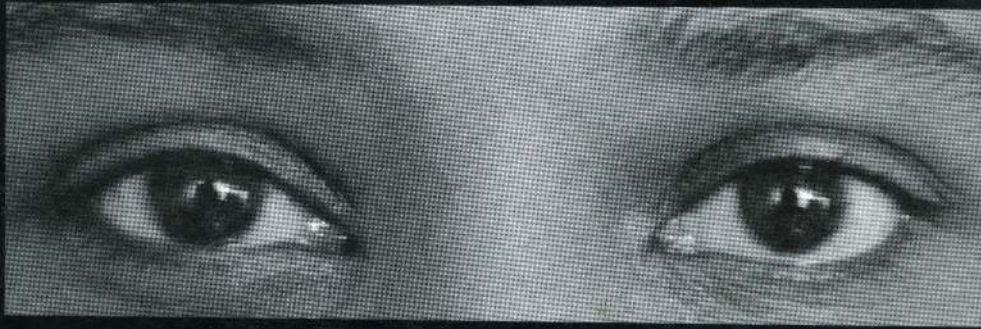


BREAK THE SILENCE



**WOMEN
IN NEED**

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Break the silence. WIN against violence.



WOMEN IN NEED

Break the silence. WIN against violence.

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HOW WE BEGAN

In September 1987, a group of concerned and committed women spearheaded by Caryl Tozer, Jane Merivale - a Canadian volunteer, Merle Weerasinghe, Kamalini Wijetillake, Anita Jayawardene, Indira Gonsalkorale, Ranmali de Silva and Valli Kanapathipillai met to discuss the formation of an organisation aimed at curbing and eradicating domestic violence against women in Sri Lanka and the establishment of a Crisis Centre for such women. This group of women firmly believed in the fact that domestic and other forms of violence pervaded our society and that something needed to be done to redress this problem.

In May 1988, this Organisation which was named 'Women In Need', opened its Crisis Centre for battered women in Sri Lanka - first known as The Women's Information Centre, at No. 4, Alfred Place, Colombo 03. The Centre was manned by an Administrative Co-ordinator and several volunteers and in its first year handled just five clients.

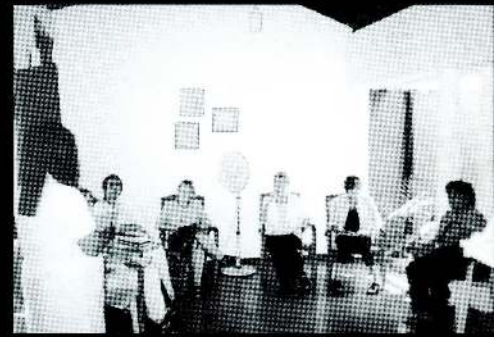
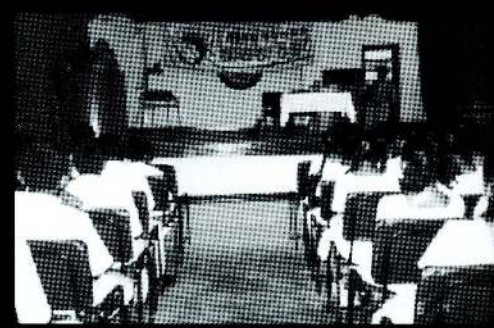
What we are today

Today WIN has grown to six centres in the Western, Central, Southern, Uva, North Central and Northern provinces. WIN also maintains three "ONE STOP CRISIS CENTRES" in Colombo, one at the National Hospital in Colombo and the other two at the Castle Street Hospital and De Soyza Hospital for Women. These Centres were the first of their kind to be opened in Sri Lanka, offering crisis counselling and legal aid to victims of violence who come to the Hospitals for medical treatment.

Although WIN initially commenced its activities purely as a "drop-in centre" for women in crisis, as time went on the issues that WIN was called upon to handle became more complex and diverse. Therefore our services and activities have expanded greatly over the years and we now deal with many other issues stemming from all forms of violence as well as initiating preventive measures to combat such violence. Our staff, which began with just one Administrative Co-ordinator and several volunteers, now boasts of a staff of over forty - five permanent employees consisting of counsellors, lawyers, social workers, administrative and accounts officers and other support staff at our centres throughout the island.

OUR ACTIVITIES

- Counselling and psychological support for victims of violence and their families
- Legal services
- 24 hour hotline
- Temporary shelter for victims of violence
- Legal clinics
- Awareness programmes for community based organisations
- Awareness programmes for law enforcement officers
- Awareness programmes on prevention of violence among young adults in schools
- Networking and collaboration
- Legal reform and research (lobbying for legislative amendments)
- Publishing of educational and awareness building material (handbooks/brochures)
- Gender development projects
- Training and consultation
- Gender advisory services to CBO's, NGO's and GO's. Women's NGO Forum and the Consortium of Legal Aid Organisations
- Advocacy



OUR CENTRES

The Colombo Crisis Centre

WIN's Colombo Centre at 122, Cotta Road, Colombo is the nerve-centre that co-ordinates all activities at WIN. This Centre is open throughout the year and offers counselling, befriending and legal advice to women and children who are victims of violence.

The clients, who call over for counselling, come in with numerous problems. They range from family breakdown, battering, verbal and emotional abuse, rape, incest and child abuse, etc. It is with great concern that we have observed the increase in the number of victims of rape, incest and child abuse during the last couple of years. WIN's dynamic team of lawyers, counsellors, social workers and our clinical psychologist and other staff members work long hours to give the best possible service to clients who visit our main Crisis Centre. During the past year we have had thousands of 'drop-in' clients, postal inquiries and telephone inquiries.

Matara Centre

WIN's Matara Centre plays an important role in providing our services to women in the Southern part of the country. This Centre has earned itself a name for offering excellent counselling and legal services to the women and children of this area. The demand for our services there has grown steadily over the years. This Centre services many referrals from the Judiciary, Hospitals, Police and other Organisations in the area. The Centre works closely with the Human Rights Commission too. This Centre also runs Community Workshops and Awareness Programmes and Schools Programmes on topics such as legal awareness, sexual harassment, violence, child abuse, relationships, gender issues and educational counselling on a regular basis in the Southern Province.

The Matara Centre has also started a sustainable livelihood programme for a limited number of women who were subject to violence in order to economically empower them.

Kandy Centre

Since the re-opening of the Kandy Centre in March 2002, an increasing number of clients have visited our Centre. A majority of the clients who have visited the Centre have come seeking counselling and legal advice for marital problems, violence etc. The Kandy Centre attracts many clients from all parts of the central region in the island. This Centre is open Monday to Friday and offer counselling and legal services.

We deal with many referrals from the Police, Judiciary and other Organisations. We also network with the Ministry of Women's Affairs of the Provincial Council for the Central Province and other community based organisations in the region. It is noteworthy that most cases relating to family breakdown are due to extra marital relations.

Badulla Centre

The Badulla Centre, which was opened in October 2002, is located in the plantation area and plays an important role in combating domestic violence, which is widely prevalent in the plantation sector. The WIN Centre in Badulla conducts many Awareness Programmes in the Badulla district for community based organisations and government organisations, which are aimed at making a difference in the lives of the community. The Badulla Centre has grown beyond our expectations.

Anuradhapura Centre

WIN opened its 5th Centre in Anuradhapura in October 2002. This Centre has received immense support from the law enforcement officers and the hospitals in the region. The Centre is situated in close proximity to the Base Hospital in Anuradhapura, making it easily accessible to victims of violence who often need counselling after being treated in the Hospital.

This Centre located in the North Central Province, plays an important role in combating violence against women and children in this region and handles many cases of attempted suicide, incest and child abuse - problems, which are widely prevalent in this area.

We have observed that a large number of clients visiting the Centre are suffering from domestic violence/suicidal tendencies and have been victims of marital breakdown due to numerous reasons. There is also an alarming increase in child abuse, rape and incest cases in the area which may be attributed to the increasing number of mothers migrating to the Middle East etc. in search of work.

Jaffna Centre

The Jaffna Centre commenced work in August 2004 and has had a steady increase in client numbers. The long prevalent ethnic conflict which had affected the North and East for over two decades have made women and children suffer in silence for a long period of time. WIN has observed that domestic violence was prevalent in the North and that the women and children there were subject to physical and psychological violence and that there were only a few organisations working on the issue. WIN felt that it was important to open a Crisis Centre in Jaffna to make the people more sensitive on gender issues and, to offer counselling and awareness.

There were 288 clients in the first five months of operation. The Centre was established on the initiative by the Canadian International Development Agency.

The One Stop Crisis Centres - National Hospital, and the Castle Street Hospital for Women and the De Zoysa Hospital for Women

This Project involved the setting up of a Crisis Counselling Centre at the Emergency Unit of the National Hospital as this is where victims of violence go initially for treatment. This Centre, which was set up in 2001 with the assistance of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Women's Affairs, promotes the multi-agency approach where medical professionals, counsellors and legal professionals focus on the issue of violence and support the victims.

WIN realised that it would be of great advantage to the victims if they could receive medical attention together with immediate crisis counselling and legal services at one and the same place. WIN believed that such a Centre would strengthen the victim, whose physical and psychological condition is at a low ebb, to face the situation with confidence. A medico-legal report is also made available to the victims if they intend to proceed with legal action.

The success of this Centre at the National Hospital in Colombo prompted WIN to open two more such centres at the Castle Street Hospital and De Zoysa Hospital for Women. The support received from the doctors and nurses in the setting up of these three Centres needs to be acknowledged and commended. We have had many requests from other hospitals to start more centres in hospitals. WIN hopes to establish One Stop Crisis Centres in hospitals in the areas of our regional centres as well.

Legal Support to Victims of Violence

WIN provides counselling and legal assistance to clients subject to rape, domestic violence, incest, sexual abuse and sexual harassment. WIN has handled over 1700 cases of rape, incest and domestic violence over the past 2 years, protecting the interests of victims, who are not in an economically sound position and who would not have pursued legal remedies if not for the legal and counselling support given by WIN. Apart from the drop-in clients, we also select legal aid cases through newspaper reports as well as through referrals from the Courts and the Police. WIN's team of lawyers advice clients in exploring the feasibility of pursuing legal action. They also encourage the victims to take up the issue of domestic violence to court. This advice is provided free of charge. WIN also continues to provide other support services for the clients, while the legal cases are going on.

Divorce, separation and maintenance cases are referred to outside counsel or a legal aid institution, when WIN cannot represent them in court. WIN appears on behalf of these clients whenever possible and follows through with other activities normally undertaken in legal cases. As WIN's client numbers have increased considerably, at times we have to prioritise cases, as there is a great demand for legal services and court representations.

The Emergency Shelter

WIN's Emergency Shelter is the only one of its kind in the country that deals with women and children who are subject to violence. This Shelter, which is situated in the outskirts of Colombo, can accommodate up to 15 women and children at any given time.

WIN has provided shelter to over 208 women and children who were subjected to violence during the year 2003/2004. This is the first Shelter of its kind in Sri Lanka, which specifically deals with women who are victims of violence. We also accommodate children who are victims of child abuse, rape and other forms of violence. The clients are kept in the Shelter for a limited period of time till they gain their mental and physical strength. If they are in need of legal assistance, WIN lawyers give them legal counselling and represent them in court. During their stay at the shelter, our counsellors also work with them and in most instances we encourage joint counselling sessions with the clients and their families. The Shelter has proved to be a very effective refuge for clients in distress. The calm and peaceful environment at the Shelter has been extremely beneficial to traumatised women and children.

Legal Clinics

Legal clinics are operated by WIN at some of our regional centres and also at some of our workshops that are held in very remote areas.

WIN further envisages conducting legal clinics at different rural and urban locations in order to encourage clients to come forward and discuss their personal/legal problems with our lawyers. WIN hopes to extend these services to other NGOs and organisations.

24 Hour Hotline

WIN launched a 24 hour hotline, on the 8th of March 2001, which was International Women's Day.

We have received over 8000 telephone calls and have taken action in response to these calls. Most often our other Centres refer clients/queries through this hotline.

The most frequent calls to the hotline are from those in emergency and desperate situations. We receive calls at all hours of the day and night. Women In Need's hotline is accessible 24 hours a day and is handled by qualified counsellors and lawyers.



Awareness Programmes for Community Based Organisations

WIN conducts programmes raising public consciousness, with regard to the law in general and carries out public promotions of the legal services available at the WIN Crisis Centre. Most of these programmes are conducted in collaboration with Community Based Organisations and other NGO's.

The objective in holding these programmes is to create knowledge and awareness on domestic violence, the effects of violence and the duty and obligations of the community to support such victims. WIN carries out two functions in this regard, namely:

1. To impart knowledge on domestic violence, the redress available in the form of counselling, mediation, legal aid and safety shelters, the need for action within the community to prevent such violence and the need for raising awareness and education.

2. To raise awareness stemming from the first activity on identifying the existence of domestic violence, covert and subtle and responding to such acts within the community.

The community based organizations are then facilitated to set up "Community Action Groups" within the community organizations, which take the form of community educators and community watch dogs.

In cases of rape, incest, child abuse and domestic violence our lawyers represent the client in courts. On being trained, the community action groups will liaise with other community organizations, religious institutions and educational institutions on the prevalence of domestic violence and the need to support and strengthen the victims of violence. The specific activities involved are meetings, workshops with officials and establishing vital links in remedial and preventive work.

Awareness Programmes for Law Enforcement Officers.

WIN considers this to be an extremely important sphere of their activities. These awareness programmes will involve law enforcement agencies like the Police Officers and the Judiciary on the issue of violence, humane treatment of the victims of violence, especially in relation to women and children, creating a friendly atmosphere in court houses and police stations. The programmes further disseminate knowledge on the emotional impact of violence on women and children and the handling of such issues in a compassionate manner, and the need to treat domestic violence as a violation of human rights and not just as a domestic issue.



We also sensitise these Agencies on gender issues, as this is an important aspect, which will help them to improve their services to the community. Further objectives of the programmes are to update the knowledge of the law enforcement officers on the recent amendments to the Penal Code and the other laws pertaining to women and children.

Violence Prevention Awareness among Young Adults in Schools

WIN staff and specially trained resource persons first select secondary and high schools throughout the island. Once the permission of school authorities has been obtained, they present a 4 to 5 hour presentation on "Violence Against Women". This presentation addresses the topics of gender myths, relationships, violence against women, legal rights and obligations and educational counselling which deals with stress among students. Reference and promotional material are distributed during these presentations. These programmes have proved to be extremely popular and have been in great demand.

Publishing of Educational and Awareness Building Material

We have been able to publish several important brochures and handbooks relating to our work, which we have used in our awareness programmes and community workshops.

We have found these to be an effective tool in our campaign to eradicate violence. Some of these publications are:

- Handbook for victims of violence
- Training of Trainers Manual (TOT)
- Handbook of laws relating to property and inheritance rights of women

Property and Inheritance Rights Project (USAID Small Grants)

WIN initiated a new project which was aimed at creating awareness on discriminatory property rights (customary practices) etc. The main objectives of the project was to conduct research on discriminatory customary practices, especially under Kandyan and Muslim Law, initiate legal action in selected cases, conduct awareness programmes on property and inheritance rights to CBO's, NGO's and mobilize organizations to address and take up discriminatory issues with regard to these rights. The activities that addressed women's property and inheritance rights were:

- Advocacy and awareness creation programmes
- Legal remedies (legal aid, research etc.)
- Research on customary and discriminatory practices
- Sensitizing policy makers and to address and take action on such discriminatory issues
- Community mobilisation and lobbying support groups for change

In keeping with the objective of the programme, WIN conducted research on discriminatory customary practices, with emphasis on Muslim and Kandyan Law and land settlements.

The research was carried out in the Mahaweli System C and in the District of Polonnaruwa, which included about 18 villages. These were either agricultural or Mahaweli settlements. This survey was carried by the random selection of women in these villages by field researchers.

An Appreciation from a Client

I am, (name withheld) a woman battered, mentally, physically and sexually harassed by my husband for eight years. My hard deal in life is not yet over but my survival has been made possible through the kindness, generosity and loving assistance of Women In Need (WIN).

After eight years of abuse, I was finally badly beaten and thrown out on the streets by my husband along with my three week old baby whom I had delivered under a caesarean operation. Neighbours took me to the Police Station from where I was taken to the hospital by my family. The hospital referred me to WIN.

Ever since WIN took me over, I was supported in several ways the most significant of which was that I was given shelter by WIN - directly after hospitalisation, as I had no home to return to by then. They gave me free counselling and paid my medical bills and those of my baby's too. I received free legal aid and WIN had several meetings and discussions with my husband explaining and setting out the situation and what steps they would take on my behalf if necessary. They have retained a lawyer for me paying his fees. This would have been impossible for me to do as my resources were severely depleted since my husband forced me to leave my job.

After obtaining a restraining order, I came to live with my parents but continued to avail myself of legal aid and free counselling available at WIN. They also provided me with meals and costs of travelling and they even looked after my baby on several occasions. WIN also took me to a private hospital for psychological evaluation, paying all hospital charges.

Profile of a Client Handled by the 'One Stop Crisis Centre'

Vimala was admitted to the General Hospital as her husband had cut both her hands at the wrist and two fingers were severed from her right hand. Her legs were injured and there was severe laceration of the muscle of one leg.

It was established that the husband often took liquor and assaulted her and about five months prior to this incident she had been brutally assaulted and hospitalised. The client was confused and in a state of apathy. The two children aged eleven and four were with the father's brother. But the eldest boy (of sixteen years) had run away when the father beat him. No one visited the client when she was in the hospital. The client had no support from her family. As she had no place to go, WIN kept her in our Shelter for four months.

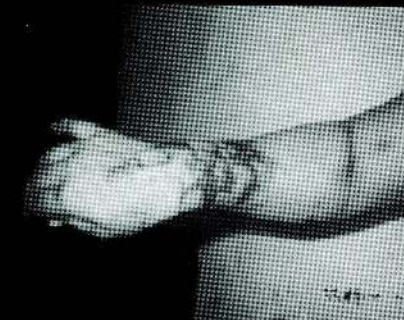
The client had no parents. The client's mother had burnt herself to death when she heard about her husband's extra marital relationship. The client's children were all given for adoption.

The client was taken to the hospital by WIN counsellors on several occasions for physiotherapy and for orthopedic treatment. Gradually she got over her traumatic condition and her mental condition also improved.

Her case is pending in the Marawila courts and WIN lawyers have appeared on behalf of the client. Several home visitations were also made by the counsellor handling her matter to follow up on her case and to record any progress that may have been made by her.

Profile of a Shelter Client

The client who is 45 years old has a son of 21 years. According to the client, her husband who was an ex-police officer battered her at the slightest provocation. He always kept a big sharp knife at their home and had constantly intimidated her with this knife and brainwashed their only son. On the day of the incident, her husband had come home in a temper, locked all the doors and windows and had threatened her with the knife and battered her until she became unconscious. The reason for this assault had been that the client had spoken to her mother on the road earlier that day. According to the client, she had been subjected to this kind of mental and physical torture for 24 long years. The neighbours had rushed her to the hospital. The client's sister referred the client to the WIN Crisis Centre in Colombo. The lawyers from Women In Need appeared on behalf of the client in court. The client was kept at the WIN Shelter for some time. During this time, WIN staff members took her to Colombo General Hospital regularly for treatment. She stayed at the Shelter till she regained her strength and confidence and until she found a suitable place to live. The WIN lawyers still represent her in court.



Our Vision for the Future

It is with a sense of pride that we look back on what we have achieved during the last seventeen years. We have risen from very small beginnings to become a nationally recognized Organization, which is accepted at all levels of society today. However, there is much more to do and many more goals to achieve and aspirations to fulfil. We need to expand and establish more Crisis Centres throughout the Island, especially in the East and the Wayamba and Moneragala areas as our services are urgently needed in those regions.

The opening of new Centres would inevitably lead to the demand for more Shelters in other parts of the country. We hope to achieve all this as follows: -

- Expansion of more Crisis Centres in the East, Wayamba and Moneragala
- Establishing more new Shelters in other areas / regions
- Expanding the concept of 'One Stop Crisis Centres' in other hospitals throughout the country
- Building up a better understanding and working relationship with the Law Enforcement Agencies
- Working towards establishing WIN as the national umbrella organization in the country, training and expanding other small organizations to deal with VAW
- Development of a Strategic Plan

To build our own Counselling Centre in Colombo is one of our priorities. A purpose built facility in a prime location in Colombo is not just a dream but an absolute necessity. It is with great pleasure that we report that our dream is about to come true - thanks to the kind and timely intervention of his Worship the Mayor of Colombo, who has offered us ten perches of land in a prime location in Colombo. Once the details of this Grant is finalized we hope to start raising funds to build our own Crisis Centre. With the completion of this building, we can look to the future with renewed hope and great expectation.

Our Funders

The journey that WIN has embarked upon has been a long and arduous one. We would not have been able to make a difference in the lives of so many women and children and render these greatly needed services, if not for our funders.

We appreciate the confidence placed in us, which is often demonstrated by the fact that these organisations have repeatedly funded our cause over the years. WIN has through long years of service achieved credibility as a service oriented organisation serving the women and children of Sri Lanka.

We acknowledge and thank our main funders over the years:

1. Swedish International Development Agency
2. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
3. Royal Norwegian Embassy (NORAD)
4. Canadian International Development Agency
5. World Bank Judicial and Legal Project

We also hold in high esteem our other funders:

1. Asia Foundation
2. Match International Canada
3. USAID Small Grants
4. Suriya Foundation
5. North American Womens Association
6. Mama Cash
7. Francophone Association

We must not fail to acknowledge the numerous private donors and organisations, whose unstinting support of our work, have greatly assisted us in our quest.

Launch of the 'Victims Of Violence Fund'

On our Fifteenth Anniversary Celebration, we launched the Victims Violence Fund, to enable us to assist a large number of women and children throughout the country who are subject to domestic violence, rape, incest and sexual abuse etc. We give them legal and medical aid, psychological counselling, shelter, comfort and solace in their time of need through this fund.

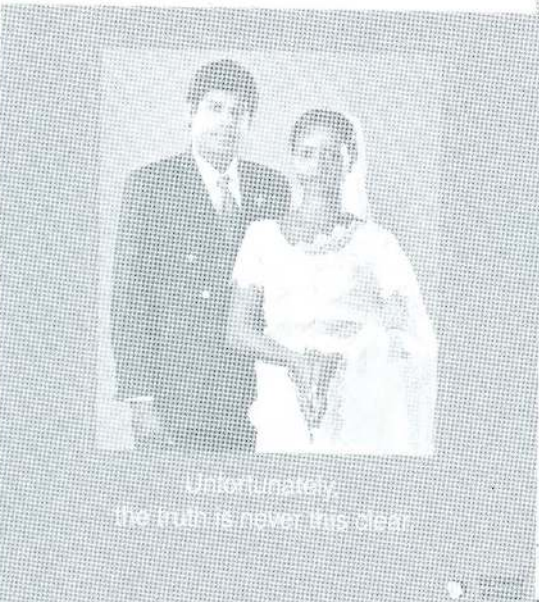
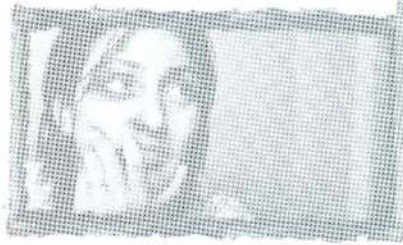
We also hope to combat the problem of domestic violence by raising awareness within the community on the issue and by making known the kind of assistance that is available to these victims. WIN has been successful in raising public awareness on the issue which is an effective preventive measure to the incidence of this kind of violence.

WIN is happy to announce that in the first year itself, a sum of over Rupees One Million was raised and since its launch WIN has assisted many women and children who were subject to extreme forms of violence.

WIN looks to the support of funding organisations, mercantile establishments and caring individuals to make this Fund a success by contributing generously to this commendable cause.

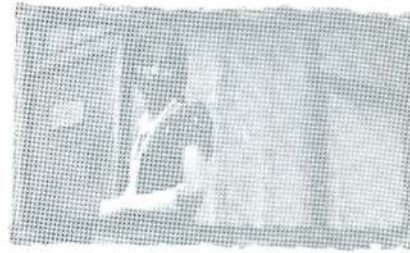
There are many victims of domestic violence, rape and sexual abuse who suffer in silence. The "Victims of Violence Fund" may be their only lifeline. We sincerely hope that there are many who would want to make a difference in the life of a desperate woman or child.

I KNOW
BY THE LOOK
IN HER
EYES



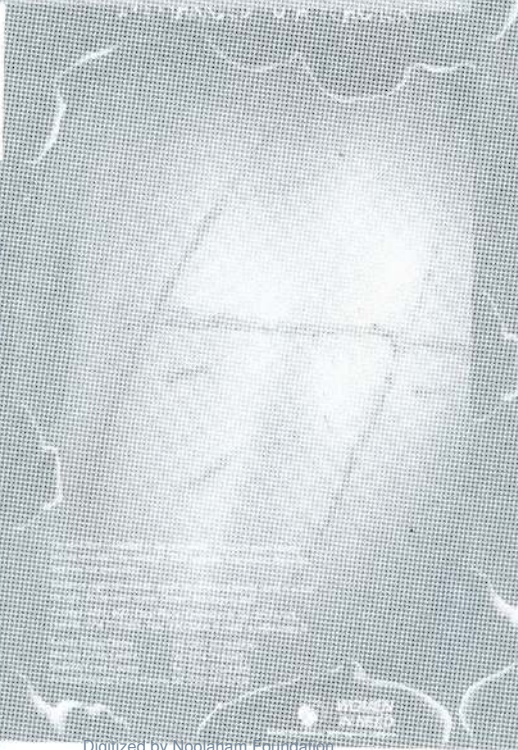
Unfortunately,
the truth is never this clean.

HE HOLDS HER
HAND



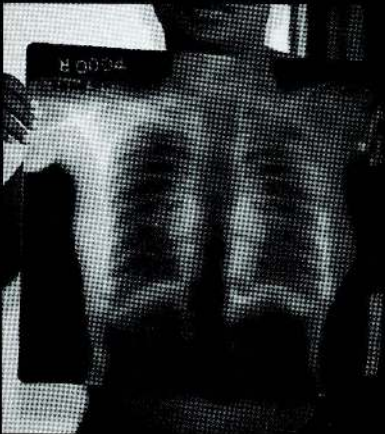
HE ENKAYED TO A CHEF

MY HUSBAND IS A DEVIANT



WOMEN
WITNESS

WOMEN
WITNESS



PLEDGE CARD

'Victims of Violence Fund Pledge Card'

I would like to:

- Make a Donation of Rs.....
- Make a Monthly Donation of Rs..... xmonths.
(Total Rs:.....Attached herewith is the 1st installment)

Mode of Payment

- Crossed Cheque (Cheque to be drawn in favour of "Women In Need")
(Cheque No:.....Bank.....)
- Deposited to WIN Account No: HSBC 00135308001
(please enclose copy of bank slip)
- Cash

Donor Details

- Personal Company Other.....
- Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms).....
- Company.....
- Address.....
-
- Telephone..... Mobile.....
- Fax..... Email.....

Signature..... Date.....

If you need any further information or clarification please feel free to contact us.

BREAK THE SILENCE



COLOMBO CRISIS CENTRE

122, Cotta Road

Colombo 08, Sri Lanka.

Tel: 2671411, 4615549

Fax: 2665870

E-mail: win@eureka.lk

Website: www.winsl.org

WIN 24 hour hotline:

471 8585



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COLOMBO CRISIS CENTRE

122, Cotta Road
Colombo 08, Sri Lanka.
Tel: 2671411, 4615549
Fax: 2665870
E-mail: win@eureka.lk
Open: Monday to Friday
9.00 a.m to 4.30 p.m
Saturday & Sunday
9.00 a.m - 12.00 p.m
(including poya & public holidays)

ANURADHAPURA CRISIS CENTRE

596/75
Bandaranayake Mawatha,
Kadapanaha, Anuradapura
Tel: 025 2235530
Open: Monday to Friday
9.00 a.m to 4.30 p.m

KANDY CRISIS CENTRE

867/A
Peradeniya Road,
Kandy
Tel: 081 2203246
Open: Monday to Friday
9.00 a.m - 4.30 p.m

MATARA CRISIS CENTRE

36A, Udyana Mawatha,
Uyanwatta, Matara.
Tel: 041 5414004
Open: Monday to Friday
9.00 a.m - 4.30 p.m

BADULLA CRISIS CENTRE

25B, Kailagoda Road
Badulla.
Tel: 055 2 224395
Open: Monday to Friday
9.00 a.m - 4.30 p.m

JAFFNA CRISIS CENTRE

22, Rakka Lane,
Chundikifuli,
Jaffna.
Open: Monday to Friday
9.00 a.m to 4.30 p.m

ONE STOP CRISIS CENTRES**NATIONAL HOSPITAL**

Accident Service - Colombo.
Open: Monday to Friday
9.00 a.m to 4.30 p.m

DE SOYSA HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN

Open: Monday to Friday
9.00 a.m to 4.30 p.m

CASTLE STREET HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN

Ward No 10
Open: Monday to Friday
9.00 a.m - 2.00 p.m

KIRULAPONE POLICE STATION

Open: Wednesday
2.00 p.m to 4.30 p.m



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