



Australian Government
Refugee Review Tribunal

Country Advice

India

India – IND37144 – Mumbai – Domestic violence – State protection

13 August 2010

1. Please provide brief updated information about state protection of female victims of domestic violence, in Mumbai and India generally.

RRT *Research Response IND34638* covers events up to 20 March 2009; this advice only assesses reports published after that date.¹

The most recent annual reports from the US Department of State (USDOS), UK Home Office, Human Rights Watch, and Amnesty International do not provide new information about state protection for victims of domestic violence (DV) superseding that provided in the abovementioned *Research Response IND34638*. Nonetheless, all note that the Indian authorities continue to fail to provide adequate state protection for women, including victims of DV. The reports note the 2005 passing of the *Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act*, but none analyse whether this legislation has improved access to state protection for victims of DV in Mumbai or elsewhere in India. The USDOS report on human rights in India for 2009 notes a February 2009 survey carried out by the International Institute of Population Studies and the Population Council of India which found that “[i]n Maharashtra [the state in which Mumbai is located] 27 percent of women interviewed reported physical abuse”.²

State protection for victims of domestic violence in Mumbai

The most comprehensive recent report assessing the ability of women in Mumbai, and in India as a whole, to access state protection under the *Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005* (PWDVA) was produced by the Lawyer’s Collective Women’s Rights Initiative (LCWRI) in 2009.³ This is the third annual monitoring report on the implementation of the PWDVA produced by the LCWRI; the first two monitoring reports are included as attachments to the abovementioned *Research Response IND34638*.

¹ RRT Research & Information 2009, *Research Response IND34638*, 20 March – Attachment 1.

² US Department of State 2010, *2009 Human Rights Reports: India*, 11 March – Attachment 2; Amnesty International 2010, *Amnesty International Report 2009: India*, 28 May – Attachment 3; Human Rights Watch 2010, *World Report 2010: Country Summary – India*, January – Attachment 4; UK Home Office 2010, *Country of Origin Information Report – India*, January – Attachment 5.

³ The LCRWI is a New Delhi-based organisation founded in 1999 as a specialised unit of the Lawyer’s Collective, a human rights advocacy, legal aid and litigation NGO. According to the Lawyer’s Collective website, the organisation was “created to provide expert legal assistance to the underprivileged, especially women and children, workers in the unorganised sector and other members of marginalised groups”. See: <http://www.lawyerscollective.org/about-us>.

In its 2009 monitoring survey of the implementation of the PWDVA, the LCWRI focus on Maharashtra and Delhi, states where it has implemented its training courses for police and protection officers (POs – officials nominated by state governments to conduct enquiries into cases of DV). In Maharashtra, the LCWRI has trained police in seven districts, including Mumbai, and Mumbai was one of three districts from which data was used for its survey of attitudes of police and protection officers to victims of DV. Data from its survey of magistrates and protection applicants who had been through the court process in Maharashtra was not available for inclusion in the LCWRI report. The report is not explicit on the reasons for this, although it notes that “many [women] who faced negative experiences in court were reluctant to share their experiences.”

Maharashtra has 3,892 protection officers, the highest number of any state in India, and 220 court orders were issued under the PWDVA between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009. The LCWRI report noted that the courts in Maharashtra will, in a majority of cases, issue a protection order in favour of protection applicants when DV is *prima facie* proven, even when it is not sought in the application. The LCWRI report further claims that its training of police officers in Mumbai and other “intervention states... positively influenced attitudes around preserving the women’s rights”. However, the report also states that it “was of concern that in Maharashtra, social norms around violence, such as the perception that DV is a family affair, was not impacted by the trainings.”

The LCWRI report suggests that the PWDVA law is being ineffectively enforced in Maharashtra, but that the courts had, in July 2009, taken a more proactive approach, in what is described as a “landmark” ruling by the Bombay High Court. According to the report:

...taking note of the issue of increasing instances of bride burning and offences against women, the High Court of Bombay provided a number of directions to the Government of Maharashtra for effective implementation of PWDVA in the state, as one of the crucial legislations to address violence against women.

The ruling provides detailed instructions for the establishment of an administrative and enforcement framework to enable the effective functioning of the Act, and notes that there has been no effective enforcement of the Act in Maharashtra up to this time. The report claims that this judgement has “set an important precedent by taking cognisance of the failure of states to create the infrastructure for implementation of laws that play a crucial role in women’s lives”, and that it may also provide “an example for other High Courts as well as state governments to take appropriate steps in this regard rather than setting up an infrastructure that remains largely ineffective”.⁴

Nonetheless, progress in implementing the recommendations of the Bombay High Court has been slow. A February 2010 petition filed in the Bombay High Court by Rajendra Anbhule, a Pune-based advocate dealing with several DV cases, states that the government of Maharashtra had ignored the court’s ruling and had failed to implement any of its abovementioned recommendations. The petition claimed that “the [Maharashtra]

⁴ Lawyers Collective Women’s Rights Initiative 2009, *Staying Alive: Third Monitoring & Evaluation Report 2009 on the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005*, UNIFEM website, pp. 14, 16, 19, 28, 35, 120, 138, 168-69
[http://www.unifem.org.in/PDF/Staying%20Alive%20Third%20M&E%20Report%202009%20\(final\).pdf](http://www.unifem.org.in/PDF/Staying%20Alive%20Third%20M&E%20Report%202009%20(final).pdf) – Accessed 16 August 2010 – Attachment 6.

government has ignored implementation of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence (DV) Act made to protect women and children from domestic violence". The petition also stated that:

- there were no full-time protection officers appointed, with duties instead put on to already overworked officers;
- the state had not created awareness of the law;
- proper training had not been given to police and other authorities dealing with the law;
- police officers were not cooperating with women making complaints to them;
- inadequate legal services were available to complainants.

The petition also noted that the Maharashtra government had ignored the earlier court ruling directing it to effectively implement the Act.⁵

In response to these claims, the Maharashtra Women and Child Development Department submitted an affidavit to the court on 10 February 2010 which accepted that there was a shortage of full-time protection officers conducting DV enquiries in the state. Most of the protection officers appointed under the PWDVA were existing police officers who lacked the resources and training to effectively carry out the role.⁶ On 27 May 2010, it was reported in *DNA Daily News & Analysis* that the government of Maharashtra would appoint 39 full-time protection officers, and that all districts would have a full-time protection officer. The government acknowledged that the tehsildars [district-level government officials] and police officers previously appointed to take on the protection officer role were already overburdened and lacked expertise in dealing with DV cases. The protection officers were to have law or social work backgrounds, and to be appointed in consultation with relevant NGOs.⁷

Despite this renewed government commitment, the implementation (or otherwise) of the provisions of the PWDVA in Mumbai and Maharashtra continues to cause controversy. In August 2010, *The Times of India* reported that women's groups and NGOs had met in Pune, near Mumbai, to demand effective implementation of the PWDVA. The groups were also protesting against the appointment of a non-government security officer under the PWDVA, claiming that out-sourcing the responsibility of enforcing the Act to an NGO was an abrogation of the responsibility of the state to provide adequate protection for victims of DV.⁸

⁵ Vyas, H. 2010, "No protection officers appointed under Domestic Violence Act", says petitioner', *DNA Daily News & Analysis*, 3 February http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report_no-protection-officers-appointed-under-domestic-violence-act-says-petitioner_1342937 – Accessed 19 August 2010 – Attachment 7. *DNA Daily News & Analysis* is an English language daily newspaper with a liberal, pro-reform outlook. It was established in 2005 and publishes from Mumbai and other large cities in the region.

⁶ Vyas, H. 2010, 'No staff to enforce domestic violence act, admits state', *DNA Daily News & Analysis*, 11 February http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report_no-staff-to-enforce-domestic-violence-act-admits-state_1346215 – Accessed 19 August 2010 – Attachment 8.

⁷ Gangan, S. 2010, '39 protection officers will assist women in distress in Maharashtra', *DNA Daily News & Analysis*, 27 May http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report_39-protection-officers-will-assist-women-in-distress-in-maharashtra_1388298 – Accessed 19 August 2010 – Attachment 9.

⁸ 'Women groups oppose GR under domestic violence Act' 2010, *The Times of India*, 1 August <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/Women-groups-oppose-GR-under-domestic-violence-Act/articleshow/6242024.cms> – Accessed 20 August 2010 – Attachment 10.

Positive developments in the implementation of the PWDVA

In February 2010, the Bombay High Court ruled that Family Courts can try and punish violators of DV orders issued under the PWDVA. The issue was raised during divorce proceedings in the family court in Pune, during which a woman complained that her husband had breached a protection order passed under the Act. In that case, the Family Court ruled that it had no jurisdiction to try the case; the High Court judge disagreed, stating that “interpretation of a legislation, specially a protective legislation as the DV Act, must be such as to enhance justice and not to frustrate it”.⁹

In August 2009, the Bombay High Court ruled that a court hearing a DV case need not wait for a report to be filed by a protection officer before issuing an interim order. In the ruling, the presiding judge stated that, in the short term, the needs of the protection applicant over-rode the procedural requirements of the Act, and that interim protection and compensation should be awarded immediately if the facts on record supported such a decision.¹⁰

A May 2009 article from *The Times of India* reports that a Mumbai woman who had endured 12 years of abuse from her husband had made a successful claim for protection and compensation under the PWDVA. Nonetheless, the article quotes the Lawyer’s Collective, which state that “there are thousands who suffer silently owing to their inaccessibility” to the PWDVA, and that protection officers in Maharashtra “lack basic understanding of the law”.¹¹

Access to state protection for domestic violence victims elsewhere in India

The 2009 LCWRI monitoring report also assesses the efficacy of the PWDVA in Delhi, a state in which it has provided training, and in Rajasthan, where it has not. These sections of the report highlight a range of problems hindering the ability of the PWDVA to provide effective protection to victims of DV, including:

- the troubling attitudes of some magistrates, protection officers and police officers to DV;
- the limitations in the drafting of the PWDVA which do not require states to effectively fund its implementation;
- the imposition of protection officer duties on under-trained, overworked local officials;
- police refusing to take action on behalf of DV complainants due to corruption or a relationship with the husband;
- the inability of DV complainants to effectively access the judicial system to obtain relief.

⁹ Thomas, S. 2010, ‘Family courts can punish those flouting DV Act: HC’, *The Times of India*, 22 February <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Family-courts-can-punish-those-flouting-DV-Act-HC/articleshow/5601140.cms> – Accessed 19 August 2010 – Attachment 11.

¹⁰ Thomas, S. 2009, ‘New HC ruling will help domestic violence victims’, *The Times of India*, 18 August <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/New-HC-ruling-will-help-domestic-violence-victims/articleshow/4904451.cms> – Accessed 19 August 2010 – Attachment 12.

¹¹ ‘Tortured wife gets hubby’s house, thanks to new law’ 2009, *The Times of India*, (source: PTI), 13 May <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Tortured-wife-gets-hubbys-house-thanks-to-new-law/articleshow/4524726.cms> – Accessed 19 August 2010 – Attachment 13.

According to the LCWRI report, it remains an entrenched attitude among many judicial and police officers that DV is a family problem, and that women should put the interests of their families ahead of their own. The report notes that 57 percent of police in Delhi and 81 percent of police in Rajasthan agreed with the statement that “women before filing a complaint of domestic violence should consider how that would affect their children”, while over 80 percent of police in both states considered DV “a family affair, that can be best resolved by counselling the woman.” This attitude suggests the likelihood that DV victims are, at best, unlikely to be treated with due respect and empathy if they approach police or protection officers for help. It is also possible that the police will be open to bribery from the alleged perpetrator to make the case disappear, or that they have a pre-existing relationship with the alleged perpetrator and will do nothing about the complaint. The report presents several examples of where bribery and pre-existing relationships have been used to prevent cases proceeding to the courts.¹²

The PWDVA does not specify the budgetary allocations to be made by state governments to implement the law, and the appointment and training of relevant officers under the Act is the responsibility of the respective state governments. To the date of the LCWRI report, 17 states had made budgetary allocations for the PWDVA, but there remains no systematic basis for these allocations, and states are free to allocate as much or little as they wish. As a result, the protection officers appointed by the states are usually already overburdened by local healthcare, policing or local governance duties, and handicapped by lack of adequate training, support and infrastructure.¹³

Even if DV victims are successful in having their case proceed to court, they can find that they do not receive the legal outcomes they seek, and consequently they feel “victimised for having spoken out”. The abovementioned attitude of members of the judiciary remains a major problem for women in accessing justice; around half of the magistrates in Delhi agree “fully or partially” that sometimes men need to beat their wives, and that too much fuss is made about DV. Although the PWDVA stipulates that cases are to be discharged within 60 days, they can drag out for years through the non-appearance of the accused and the appeals process. Corrupt police also reportedly connive with the lawyers of accused men, and claim that they cannot find the accused in order to serve notice to appear.¹⁴

The July 2010 issue of *Combat Law*, an Indian legal and human rights journal, contains several articles addressing the extent to which the PWDVA has been effective in protecting Indian women from DV. While the *Combat Law* articles generally welcome the passing of the Act, and note that it has extended protection and compensation to women in some cases, the focus is mostly on the changes deemed necessary in order for the PWDVA to properly fulfil its function. The introductory article claims that “the

¹² Lawyers Collective Women’s Rights Initiative 2009, *Staying Alive: Third Monitoring & Evaluation Report 2009 on the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005*, UNIFEM website, pp. 26, 30, 75, 94-96, 104-105, 108

[http://www.unifem.org.in/PDF/Staying%20Alive%20Third%20M&E%20Report%202009%20\(final\).pdf](http://www.unifem.org.in/PDF/Staying%20Alive%20Third%20M&E%20Report%202009%20(final).pdf) – Accessed 16 August 2010 – Attachment 6.

¹³ Lawyers Collective Women’s Rights Initiative 2009, *Staying Alive: Third Monitoring & Evaluation Report 2009 on the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005*, UNIFEM website, pp. 47, 86, 107, 192 [http://www.unifem.org.in/PDF/Staying%20Alive%20Third%20M&E%20Report%202009%20\(final\).pdf](http://www.unifem.org.in/PDF/Staying%20Alive%20Third%20M&E%20Report%202009%20(final).pdf) – Accessed 16 August 2010 – Attachment 6.

¹⁴ Lawyers Collective Women’s Rights Initiative 2009, *Staying Alive: Third Monitoring & Evaluation Report 2009 on the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005*, UNIFEM website, pp. 86, 92, 104, 192-93 [http://www.unifem.org.in/PDF/Staying%20Alive%20Third%20M&E%20Report%202009%20\(final\).pdf](http://www.unifem.org.in/PDF/Staying%20Alive%20Third%20M&E%20Report%202009%20(final).pdf) – Accessed 16 August 2010 – Attachment 6.

administration and infrastructure required for the forceful implementation of the law is sorely missing”, and that “there still seems to be a wide hiatus between the law, the perception about the law, and the attitudes of the people who have to implement the law”.¹⁵ An article titled ‘Protecting the vulnerable’ provides a brief and useful overview of the provisions of the PWDVA from a legal process perspective.¹⁶ Another article, titled ‘Just Justice? An Analysis of the Domestic Violence Act in Practice’, notes that “technical concerns and procedural issues continue to be the greatest impediment in allowing a woman to access the reliefs prescribed by the DVA”, and that “women still find it virtually impossible to negotiate the law and its provisions without the aid of a lawyer”. This article also notes that “the courts have failed to set any landmark precedents in terms of holding the various functionaries under the Act accountable for *inaction* or a *failure* to provide protection to women”.¹⁷ Finally, an article from *Combat Law* titled ‘Making DVA work for women’ lists the steps still required for improving the infrastructure and implementation of the provisions under the PWDVA to make it more responsive to the needs of women.¹⁸

The USDOS report on human rights in India for 2009 provides limited data on crimes against women in the various states of India, including rape, kidnapping and abduction, dowry deaths and DV. The report quotes the abovementioned February 2009 survey by the International Institute of Population Studies and the Population Council of India, which states that DV remains a significant problem in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu.¹⁹

Media reports on domestic violence and the PWDVA in other states

An overview of selected media reports on DV and the implementation of the PWDVA in states other than Maharashtra follows below, in reverse chronological order:

- An August 16 2010 *Huffington Post* report filed by an American academic who visited the slums of Bangalore quotes local women who state “all our husbands beat us”, and claims that it is an “immutable” rule of Indian life that “police will not concern themselves with what looks like strictly domestic violence”.²⁰
- In July 2010, a report in *Express Buzz* newspaper noted that only “2.5 percent of cases pertaining to domestic violence have received final orders” in Chennai since the passing of the PWDVA. According to protection officers in Chennai, the main

¹⁵ Bhatnagar, N. 2010, ‘DV: Prevalence, incidence & consequence’, *Combat Law*, 23 July <http://www.combatlaw.org/?p=498> – Accessed 19 August 2010 – Attachment 14.

¹⁶ Louis, M. 2010, ‘Protecting the vulnerable’, *Combat Law*, 23 July <http://www.combatlaw.org/?p=581> – Accessed 19 August 2010 – Attachment 15.

¹⁷ Advani, K. 2010, ‘Just Justice? An Analysis of the Domestic Violence Act in Practice’, *Combat Law*, 23 July <http://www.combatlaw.org/?p=599> – Accessed 19 August 2010 – Attachment 16.

¹⁸ Jaipurkar, D. & Joshi, M. 2010, ‘Making DVA work for women’, *Combat Law*, 22 July <http://www.combatlaw.org/?p=617> – Accessed 19 August 2010 – Attachment 17.

¹⁹ US Department of State 2010, *2009 Human Rights Reports: India*, 11 March – Attachment 2.

²⁰ Lydon, C. 2010, ‘Walking the Slum Side of Bangalore’, *The Huffington Post*, 16 August http://www.huffingtonpost.com/christopher-lydon/walking-the-slum-side-of_b_683116.html?view=print – Accessed 20 August 2010 – Attachment 18. *The Huffington Post* is a liberal American news website.

problems are a lack of judicial understanding of the Act and the poor enforcement of orders made under the Act.²¹

- *The Times of India* reported in July 2010 that the PWDVA faces “an uncertain future” in Ludhiana, in Punjab state, as “not even a single NGO has registered itself as the service provider”, and “the government has not made any efforts to include the name of a single organisation in the list”. In addition, district police officers who have been given the role of protection officers are unhappy, as they lack the training or capacity to undertake the task.²²
- In June 2010, *The Times Of India* reported that the Indian Ministry of Women and Child Development proposed a model derived from the United States in order to improve the implementation of the PWDVA, involving NGOs in the provision of protection orders, shelter, transport, legal assistance, and custody of children for victims of DV.²³
- An *Express Buzz* report from May 2010 notes that in Hyderabad, women can now make DV complaints at Anganwadi centres (community-based family health centres) rather than police stations. According to a representative of the local District Women and Child Development Agency, “victims in family disputes, whether it is wife, mother-in-law, sister, brother or husband hesitate to go and file a petition at the police station as they are not sure of getting justice and carry an impression that cops would take sides”. He also claims that “[w]ith limited or no understanding of the Act, women are unable to benefit from the law”.²⁴
- In December 2009, *DNA Daily News & Analysis* quoted a report on Gujarat prepared by local women’s rights NGO *Mahila Adhikar Abhiyan* [Women’s Rights Campaign] which claims that police are apathetic toward DV victims, and that this has “made a significant contribution to the rise in the figures of violence against women” in the state.²⁵
- In December 2009, *The Times of India* reported that a petition had been presented to the Karnataka High Court alleging that cases that were meant to be resolved within 60 days under the PWDVA were remaining pending for over a year, and

²¹ Narayanan, S. 2010, ‘Just 2.5% domestic abuse cases settled’, *Express Buzz*, 23 July <http://expressbuzz.com/edition/print.aspx?artid=192112> – Accessed 20 August 2010 – Attachment 19. *Express Buzz* is the website of the *New Indian Express*, a south India-based English-language daily newspaper with an anti-establishment slant.

²² Brar, K.S. 2010, ‘Domestic Violence Act faces uncertain future in city’, *The Times of India*, 22 July <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ludhiana/Domestic-Violence-Act-faces-uncertain-future-in-city/articleshow/6201939.cms> – Accessed 20 August 2010 – Attachment 20.

²³ ‘India to adopt US model in tackling domestic violence’, *The Times of India*, 17 June – Attachment 21.

²⁴ ‘Domestic violence can be reported at Anganwadis’ 2010, *Express Buzz*, 28 May <http://expressbuzz.com/search/domestic-violence-can-be-reported-at-anganwadis/176953.html> – Accessed 20 August 2010 – Attachment 22.

²⁵ Quadri, M.N. 2009, ‘We are tortured, trampled, taken for granted’, *DNA Daily News & Analysis*, 11 December http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report_we-are-tortured-trampled-taken-for-granted_1322499 – Accessed 20 August 2010 – Attachment 23.

that the local officers charged with taking on the duties of protection officers were overburdened and lacked proper expertise.²⁶

- In October 2009, *The Times of India* reported that women's groups in Jaipur, Rajasthan, had rallied to demand effective implementation of the PWDVA, and complained about "the lackadaisical execution of the law and expressed serious concern that the Act may remain another well intended law like numerous others if separate arrangements are not made for the cases under the Act".²⁷
- An October 2009 report from *DNA Daily News & Analysis* newspaper quoted the Chairperson of National Women's Commission, who claimed that, in the state of Madhya Pradesh, "there was little awareness about the Domestic Violence Act under which a woman can seek legal redressal for domestic violence against her".²⁸

Attachments

1. RRT Research & Information 2009, *Research Response IND34638*, 20 March.
2. US Department of State 2010, *2009 Human Rights Reports: India*, 11 March.
3. Amnesty International 2010, *Amnesty International Report 2009: India*, 28 May.
4. Human Rights Watch 2010, *World Report 2010: Country Summary – India*, January.
5. UK Home Office 2010, *Country of Origin Information Report – India*, January.
6. Lawyers Collective Women's Rights Initiative 2009, *Staying Alive: Third Monitoring & Evaluation Report 2009 on the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005*, UNIFEM website
[http://www.unifem.org.in/PDF/Staying%20Alive%20Third%20M&E%20Report%202009%20\(final\).pdf](http://www.unifem.org.in/PDF/Staying%20Alive%20Third%20M&E%20Report%202009%20(final).pdf) – Accessed 16 August 2010.
7. Vyas, H. 2010, "No protection officers appointed under Domestic Violence Act", says petitioner', *DNA Daily News & Analysis*, 3 February
http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report_no-protection-officers-appointed-under-domestic-violence-act-says-petitioner_1342937 – Accessed 19 August 2010.
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²⁶ 'HC notice to Centre, state over domestic violence' 2009, *The Times of India*, 2 December
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bangalore/HC-notice-to-Centre-state-over-domestic-violence/articleshow/5289473.cms> – Accessed 20 August 2010 – Attachment 24.

²⁷ 'Effective implementation of domestic violence act demanded' 2009, *The Times of India*, 27 October
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/Effective-implementation-of-domestic-violence-act-demanded/articleshow/5166314.cms> – Accessed 20 August 2010 – Attachment 25.

²⁸ 'Bhopal records highest number of rape cases in five years: NWC' 2009, *DNA Daily News & Analysis*, 8 October
http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report_bhopal-records-highest-number-of-rape-cases-in-five-years-nwc_1296524 – Accessed 20 August 2010 – Attachment 26.

9. Gangan, S. 2010, '39 protection officers will assist women in distress in Maharashtra', *DNA Daily News & Analysis*, 27 May http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report_39-protection-officers-will-assist-women-in-distress-in-maharashtra_1388298 – Accessed 19 August 2010.
10. 'Women groups oppose GR under domestic violence Act' 2010, *The Times of India*, 1 August <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/Women-groups-oppose-GR-under-domestic-violence-Act/articleshow/6242024.cms> – Accessed 20 August 2010.
11. Thomas, S. 2010, 'Family courts can punish those flouting DV Act: HC', *The Times of India*, 22 February <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Family-courts-can-punish-those-flouting-DV-Act-HC/articleshow/5601140.cms> – Accessed 19 August 2010.
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13. 'Tortured wife gets hubby's house, thanks to new law' 2009, *The Times of India*, (source: PTT), 13 May <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Tortured-wife-gets-hubbys-house-thanks-to-new-law/articleshow/4524726.cms> – Accessed 19 August 2010.
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15. Louis, M. 2010, 'Protecting the vulnerable', *Combat Law*, 23 July <http://www.combatlaw.org/?p=581> – Accessed 19 August 2010.
16. Advani, K. 2010, 'Just Justice? An Analysis of the Domestic Violence Act in Practice', *Combat Law*, 23 July <http://www.combatlaw.org/?p=599> – Accessed 19 August 2010.
17. Jaipuria, D. & Joshi, M. 2010, 'Making DVA work for women', *Combat Law*, 22 July <http://www.combatlaw.org/?p=617> – Accessed 19 August 2010.
18. Lydon, C. 2010, 'Walking the Slum Side of Bangalore', *The Huffington Post*, 16 August http://www.huffingtonpost.com/christopher-lydon/walking-the-slum-side-of_b_683116.html?view=print – Accessed 20 August 2010.
19. Narayanan, S. 2010, 'Just 2.5% domestic abuse cases settled', *Express Buzz*, 23 July <http://expressbuzz.com/edition/print.aspx?artid=192112> – Accessed 20 August 2010.
20. Brar, K.S. 2010, 'Domestic Violence Act faces uncertain future in city', *The Times of India*, 22 July <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ludhiana/Domestic-Violence-Act-faces-uncertain-future-in-city/articleshow/6201939.cms> – Accessed 20 August 2010.
21. 'India to adopt US model in tackling domestic violence', *The Times of India*, 17 June. (CISNET India CX245152)
22. 'Domestic violence can be reported at Anganwadis' 2010, *Express Buzz*, 28 May <http://expressbuzz.com/search/domestic-violence-can-be-reported-at-anganwadis/176953.html> – Accessed 20 August 2010.
23. Quadri, M.N. 2009, 'We are tortured, trampled, taken for granted', *DNA Daily News & Analysis*, 11 December http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report_we-are-tortured-trampled-taken-for-granted_1322499 – Accessed 20 August 2010.

24. 'HC notice to Centre, state over domestic violence' 2009, *The Times of India*, 2 December <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bangalore/HC-notice-to-Centre-state-over-domestic-violence/articleshow/5289473.cms> – Accessed 20 August 2010.
25. 'Effective implementation of domestic violence act demanded' 2009, *The Times of India*, 27 October <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/Effective-implementation-of-domestic-violence-act-demanded/articleshow/5166314.cms> – Accessed 20 August 2010.
26. 'Bhopal records highest number of rape cases in five years: NWC' 2009, *DNA Daily News & Analysis*, 8 October http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report_bhopal-records-highest-number-of-rape-cases-in-five-years-nwc_1296524 – Accessed 20 August 2010.