



# Access to Justice: Victims of Domestic Violence

## 1. Statement of Need

Domestic Violence (DV) is the most pervasive and persistent human rights violation in post-apartheid South Africa. Despite a progressive Constitution, the country remains one of the most dangerous places in the world for women. Even though much has been achieved in terms of establishing freedom and rights for all people in the twenty years since a democratic South Africa was established - this has not translated to freedom from violence and maltreatment for all women.

- **Failure of the Domestic Violence Act (DVA):** While the DVA is internationally recognized for its comprehensive scope, its implementation is chronically flawed. Survivors seeking help often face "secondary victimization" by a system that is overburdened, under-resourced, and occasionally indifferent.
- **The Labyrinth of the Law:** To escape an abuser permanently, a survivor must navigate a complex, fragmented legal landscape. This involves:
  - Civil Law: Obtaining and, more importantly, enforcing Protection Orders.
  - Family Law: Resolving high-conflict child custody, maintenance, and divorce proceedings.
  - Property & Housing: Securing the right to remain in a safe home or preventing illegal evictions by the perpetrator.

Evidence consistently shows that access to legal services is the single most critical factor in helping victims exit abusive relationships successfully. Currently, most survivors in the xxx and beyond are forced to represent themselves against abusers who may have greater financial resources or who use the legal system as a tool for continued harassment (litigation abuse).

- **Siloed Services:** Current state-funded legal aid is often restricted to criminal matters, leaving survivors to navigate the treacherous waters of civil and family law alone.
- **The "Litigation Trap":** Without a lawyer, many survivors abandon their legal pursuits out of fear or confusion, leading back to the cycle of violence and, ultimately, potential lethality.



## 2. Our Solution

NPO X identifies that legal support must be as multifaceted as the abuse itself. A survivor does not just need a document; they need a shield. Our model addresses this crisis through:

- **Integrated Representation:** Providing a "one-stop" legal intervention that covers protection orders, maintenance, and custody.
- When NPO X provides court support, they aren't just holding a hand; they are providing a buffer. This support ensures that the victim remains a participant in their own justice process, rather than a casualty of the system's complexity.
- **Trauma-Informed Advocacy:** Legal practitioners and law enforcement Officials trained to recognize the psychological impact of trauma, ensuring the legal process supports healing rather than causing further harm.
- **Systemic Accountability:** Monitoring the response of SAPS and the Department of Justice to ensure the DVA is more than just "paper rights."

### a) Implementation Plan

<b>Program Goal: Creation of a safe and secure society and a human rights culture, where women and children are empowered to exercise their full rights.</b>				
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Inputs</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free legal support and advice</li> <li>• Improve access to justice for victims of gender-based violence and other vulnerable women through:</li> <li>• Provision of free legal advice and assistance with protection orders, maintenance etc.</li> <li>• Assist victims in understanding court procedures; provide emotional and practical support, information, Individual</li> <li>• Consultations with clients</li> <li>• Conducting information and training workshops for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal Counseling</li> <li>• Court preparation</li> <li>• Community Workshops</li> <li>• Protection orders</li> <li>• Social action in the event of non-compliance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1000 women receiving legal counseling</li> <li>• 20 protection orders pm</li> <li>• 5 support - maintenance activities pm</li> <li>• 4 divorces pm</li> <li>• 2 community workshops pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nr of women assisted with interdicts, protection order, tracing of dockets etc. during legal process</li> <li>• Nr of women prepared for court appearances, accompanied to court</li> <li>• Nr of Community and Partner workshops presented</li> <li>• Nr of Women</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All victims are provided with legal advice in a timely manner</li> <li>• Women can apply to court for a protection order asking for relief or protection.</li> <li>• Women are prepared for legal and court procedures</li> <li>• Women are assisted during legal and court procedures</li> <li>• Women are able to make informed decisions regarding</li> </ul>



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clients of partners and other relevant service providers on such issues as the Domestic Violence and Maintenance Acts; and Court preparation of clients <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing advice to individuals and Organisations telephonically</li> <li>• Delivering and collecting documents to and from magistrate courts</li> <li>• Strengthening the legal capacity and knowledge of law enforcements and criminal justice personnel</li> </ul>			accessing legal services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women assessment of legal service</li> <li>• Nr of women accessing service</li> <li>• Protection order granted</li> <li>• Nr of women who remain safe</li> <li>• Nr of Social Action activities</li> </ul>	their future <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other service providers are informed regarding relevant legal acts and concepts</li> <li>• Safety of women and children are ensured</li> <li>• Social Action ensures wider positive impact for women in general</li> <li>• Women escape abusive situations</li> </ul>

## b) Project Budget

<b>Income</b>	<b>Legal Services to DV Victims</b>	<b>Organisational Budget</b>
Income Generation	26,000	132,000
Bequest and Grants	156,000	333,000
Individual Giving	26,000	160,000
Other Fundraising Activities	20,000	280,000
Corporates/Trusts/Foundation	210,000	856,000
Subsidy	95,000	450,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>533,000</b>	<b>2,211,000</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Bank Charges	1,200	5,400
Cleaning materials/Refreshments	3,256	18,000
Communication and Postage	8,200	24,000
Furniture and Fittings		12,000
Staff Training	12,000	64,000
Stationery and Printing	6,000	42,000
Travel and Petrol	12,000	56,000
Rent	36,000	144,000
Facilitation/Staffing Costs	256,000	965,000



Income	Legal Services to DV Victims	Organisational Budget
<b>Direct Project costs</b>	<b>340,000</b>	<b>795,000</b>
Training Workshops for Legal/SAPS	31,000	
Court Support Services	105,000	
Educational Materials: Victims	26,000	
Workshop Material	36,000	
Psychological Services and Support to Vulnerable and at Risk Children	120,000	
Catering	22,000	
Audit and Accounting Costs		70,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>674,656</b>	<b>2,195,400</b>
Surplus/Deficit	-141,656	15,600
<b>Funding request</b>		<b>150,000</b>

### c) Monitoring and Impact Evaluation

For monitoring and evaluation, we have the following systems in place:

- Statistics. Formal Statistical System
- Measurement against the indicators as set in implementing plan
- Client Satisfaction Surveys
- Group and Individual supervision. The staff attend weekly supervision meetings.
- Structured Reporting to external stakeholders such as DSD
- Management committee meetings. The management committee meets on a weekly basis. Issues regarding personnel, fund raising and other management are discussed and recorded.

## 3. Organisational Profile

Organisation Name	
Physical Address	
NPO Registration	
PBO Number	
Contact Person	
Mobile / Email	
Website	
Facebook	



<b>Banking Details:</b>	
Account Name	
Bank	
Branch	
Branch Code	
Account Type	

### Signatories

Name	ID Nr	Position

### Auditors

Name of Firm	
Address	
Person Responsible	
Practice Nr	

## 4. Conclusion

Survivors of domestic violence in South Africa do not need more legislation; they need the means to exercise the rights they already have. NPO X provides the critical missing link: accessible, multifaceted, and trauma-informed legal representation.

Our model addresses the reality of the "Siloed Services" crisis by providing a single point of entry for protection, maintenance, and custody. With a proven plan to reach 1,000 women through direct counsel and community workshops, NPO X is prepared to turn the tide against gender-based violence. We request your support to provide the shield these survivors deserve, ensuring that no woman is forced to choose between a dangerous home and a confusing, indifferent legal system.

By supporting our implementation plan, you are enabling a systemic shift toward accountability. We are not just helping women apply for protection orders; we are strengthening the capacity of law enforcement, holding the justice system to its mandates, and ensuring that children grow up in homes free from fear.