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Shadow Report to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

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Submitting Organizations

Centre for Equality and Justice

The Centre for Equality and Justice (CEJ) is a women's organization based in Colombo that works towards the achievement of gender justice by promoting gender equality and women's human rights, and advocating for the commitment to international human rights standards and fostering partnerships with grassroots level women's networks. CEJ's areas of work include preventing and addressing sexual and gender-based violence, peacebuilding and reconciliation, human rights including, sexual and reproductive health and rights, language rights of women, youth and marginalized groups, sexual bribery and Technology Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (TFSGBV).

Equality Now

Equality Now is an international human rights NGO with ECOSOC status that aims to achieve legal and systemic change to address violence and discrimination against women and girls worldwide. Founded in 1992, Equality Now's main areas of work are ending sexual violence, sexual exploitation, and harmful practices and promoting legal equality.

This shadow report is supported by the following:

Organizations

1. Affected Women's Forum (AWF)
2. LightUp Lanka
3. Mannar Women's Development Federation (MWDF)
4. Muslim Women's Development Trust (MWDT)
5. Rajarata Praja Kendraya (RPK)
6. Rural Women's Front (RWF)
7. SAFE Foundation
8. Saviya Development Foundation (SDF)
9. Sunila Women and Children Development Foundation (SWDCF)
10. WeLead Lanka
11. Women and Media Collective (WMC)
12. Women Development Federation (WDF)
13. Women's Education and Research Centre (WERC)
14. Uva Shakthi Foundation

Coalitions

1. South Asian Coalition for Accessing Justice (SAMAJ)

Overview

Sri Lanka is no stranger to the dangers, consequences and effects of Technology Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (TFSGBV), also known as Cyber Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (CSGBV). Facebook has been identified as the platform with the highest volume of content that instigates TFSGBV in Sri Lanka. Similar content is also shared and/or generated through WhatsApp, TikTok, and YouTube.¹

In a rapid assessment conducted by the Centre for Equality and Justice (CEJ) between 2021 and 2022, participants (community members, CSO professionals, local government officials and other stakeholders) from Kilinochchi, Batticaloa, Anuradhapura and Puttalam noted a rise in cybercrime and breaches of digital security over the past few years. Participants attributed the trend to an increase in exposure to the internet and social media over the years, an overall increase in smartphone usage, and increased use of the internet for communication purposes as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the ensuing lockdowns.² Drawing from the responses of participants across the country, instances of cyber violations inclusive of, or related to, TFSGBV that were prevalent took the following forms: photo morphing, receipt of obscene images, online blackmailing, reception of anonymous abusive messages, impersonation and identity theft, hate speech, spreading of false rumours, targeted harassment, unauthorised use of information, hacking, non-consensual image or video sharing (whether or not the images and videos are of an intimate nature), accumulation of pictures of women and girls on groups and pages for the objective of sexualisation, clickbait using a leaked video or picture, creation of fake accounts on social media platforms, uploading recorded conversations and personal photographs to social media networks without consent, and sexual bribery and defamation on social media in response to the expression of opinions on controversial topics³.

Women and people of diverse sexualities, gender identities, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) are targeted for sharing their personal content and broader expression online. One of the most significant repercussions is self-censorship, reduced engagement in online spaces, and less participation in digital leadership roles. TFSGBV triggers this silencing and reinforces patriarchal gender roles, which leads to limited online content related to equality and human rights.

Relevant Articles in CEDAW

This report will deal with the violations relating to TFSGBV under Article 2 and Article 5 of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in Sri Lanka with a specific focus on the response mechanism and its inadequacies, gaps in the legal framework and lack of support services for victim-survivors of TFSGBV.

1. Lack of legal frameworks that address TFSGBV and protracted legal processes

1.1. Existing legal framework

Currently, there are no laws that expressly address TFSGBV in Sri Lanka. However, several provisions of existing laws can be interpreted to include some types of TFSGBV and how they could be addressed, and some TFSGBV crimes have been prosecuted using these laws.

¹Samarakoon, S., Cooray, J., de Silva, M., Siriwardhana, K., and Silva, N. (2021). Context Assessment of Gendered Online Hate Speech and Cyber-Sexual-and-Gender Based Violence in Sri Lanka. Search for Common Ground, Sri Lanka.

²Centre for Equality and Justice (CEJ), Sri Lanka. (2023). Trapped: A rapid assessment of the prevalence and response to cases of cyber sexual and gender-based violence and gendered online hate speech <https://cejsrilanka.org/wp-content/uploads/Trapped-English-Report.pdf>

³ ibid.

The following are some laws that may be broadly interpreted to cover some forms of TFSGBV.

- I. Obscene Publications Ordinance No. 04 of 1927 (as amended)
- II. Penal Code Ordinance No.11 of 1887 (as amended)
- III. Computer Crimes Act No. 24 of 2007
- IV. Personal Data Protection Act No. 09 of 2022
- V. Children and Young Persons (Harmful Publications) Act No. 48 of 1956,
- VI. Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution Act No. 30 of 2005
- VII. Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act 2015
- VIII. Anti-Corruption Act No. 9 of 2023⁴

However, as these laws do not expressly address TFSGBV, interpreting them to include TFSGBV can result in unjust consequences. For example, the Obscene Publications Ordinance provides that it is an offence to produce and distribute obscene writings, drawings, prints, paintings, printed matter, pictures, etc. Interpreting this to include non-consensual image sharing (NCII) may be harmful to the victim-survivor whose images have been shared without consent, as they too may be held liable for the possession of 'obscene' content. In workshops conducted by CEJ for police personnel from the women and children's desks of local police stations, participants expressed that when enforcing this law, in a case of NCII sharing, they would be compelled to arrest both the perpetrator and the victim-survivor for possession of 'obscene' materials even though they clearly recognized that of the persons involved, there was a perpetrator and a victim-survivor.⁵

Since TFSGBV often exploits existing gender inequities and targets women and girls disproportionately, gender-neutral laws may fail to adequately address the unique forms of harm experienced by them. Thus, to effectively combat cyber SGBV, it is crucial to have laws that explicitly recognize the gendered nature of the issue and provide tailored protections for those at higher risk.

1.2. New developments in the law

The Online Safety Act (OSA) No. 09 of 2024 was passed in parliament in January 2024 with the aim of enhancing online safety by regulating digital platforms and content. The objective of the Act was to include measures to combat cyberbullying, hate speech, misinformation, and other online harms that primarily involve women and children. However, the law includes no such express provisions on TFSGBV or online gendered violence. Instead, the provisions in this Act focus heavily on disinformation and hate speech that may incite violence against the State and matters of 'national security'.

Though some provisions of the OSA, such as Section 17 (online cheating), Section 18 (online cheating by personation) and Section 20 (communicating statements to cause harassment) can be interpreted broadly to include forms of TFSGBV, the law does not and cannot effectively address TFSGBV as a whole.

1.3. Protracted legal processes

The legal process is tedious and time-consuming, preventing cases from being taken to court, even though they are reported and serious harm has occurred. This has led to many victim-survivors seeking quick

⁴ CEJ played an instrumental role in ensuring the inclusion of sexual bribery (also known as sextortion) in the ACA 2023. This offense, covered under the term 'sexual favour' under forms of gratification in the Act, may also include online forms of sexual bribery.

⁵ It was noted by workshop participants that in previous cases where this law was applied, both victim and perpetrator had been arrested.

solutions such as the removal of content and warnings to perpetrators rather than pursuing legal action.⁶ Due to them opting for such solutions, perpetrators often inadvertently escape accountability and avoid facing the consequences of their actions.

Furthermore, the digital nature of these harms makes it difficult to prosecute. One of the main challenges in responding to TFSGBV is finding out how the videos, pictures or other information in question were leaked and uploaded to the internet. This is especially because the justice system requires evidence to prove that the relevant information was shared without the consent of the relevant person and that platforms such as Facebook have not been able to guarantee that the post will be taken down, particularly in instances where the source is anonymised, and if the post is in line with the platform's community guidelines. Participants also highlighted the technical difficulties that could arise in retrieving data/ evidence from devices as a result of delays in reporting or the consequences of perpetrators tampering with the evidence.⁷

2. Lack of effective response mechanisms

2.1. Existing response mechanism

2.1.1. Sri Lanka police

A complaint of TFSGBV can be made to the Sri Lanka Police through a number of channels. Complaints may be recorded at the Children and Women's Desks at local police stations, at the headquarters of the Children and Women's Bureau of the Sri Lanka Police, or at the Computer Crimes Investigation Unit (CCIU) of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

2.1.2. Support services

Support services and referrals can also be obtained from local government officials such as Women Development Officers or Counselling Assistants. Additionally, counsellors at the 'Mithuru Piyasa'⁸ wing at state hospitals or local community-based or civil society organisations working on women and gender issues and civil society organisations offering mental health services may also offer support or referral services. Together, these multiple stakeholders comprise the response mechanism to TFSGBV in Sri Lanka.

2.1.3. Mechanisms for child victim-survivors

The National Child Protection Authority website set up the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) Sri Lanka Reporting Portal in 2024 which encourages individuals to report instances of online child sexual abuse through an anonymous and straightforward process. The portal emphasizes the importance of reporting, stating that such actions can help rescue victims from further harm. Users can report quickly, and while anonymity is maintained, providing an email allows for follow-up on the report's outcome. For urgent concerns regarding a child's safety or other types of abuse, the portal advises contacting local police or child protection organizations directly.

2.1.4. Other State services

The Sri Lanka Cyber Emergency Readiness Team (SLCERT) website offers a platform to report incidents of TFSGBV.⁹ The National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crimes and Witnesses, established by

⁶ Samarakoon, S., Cooray, J., de Silva, M., Siriwardhana, K., and Silva, N. (2021). Context Assessment of Gendered Online Hate Speech and Cyber-Sexual-and-Gender Based Violence in Sri Lanka. Search for Common Ground, Sri Lanka.

⁷ Centre for Equality and Justice, Trapped: A Rapid Assessment of the Prevalence and Response to Cases of Cyber Sexual and Gender Based Violence and Gendered Online Hate Speech. 2023. <https://bit.ly/41HRNHe>

⁸ Psychosocial support services at state hospitals that provide care to women affected by SGBV

⁹ In 2019, there were 3,566 incidents reported to the Sri Lanka Computer Emergency Readiness Team (SLCERT). There was a drastic increase in incidents reported to SLCERT during the pandemic, with 16,376 incidents reported in the year 2020

statute in 2016, allows victims of TFSGBV to be eligible for various forms of protection, subject to the availability of resources. To qualify for these protections, reasonable fear of harm must be demonstrated. In addition to physical safety measures, the law recognises the right of victims to receive medical treatment, including in cases of psychological harm. If the state is unable to provide necessary medical services, victims may apply to relevant authorities for financial assistance to obtain such care.¹⁰

2.1.5. Non-State services

A briefly active Cyber Care App was launched in the country to combat cyber violence, particularly affecting youth and women, aiming to address the rise in online abuse during the Covid-19 pandemic. Features of the App include awareness raising, support resources, gamification and incident reporting.¹¹ Currently, the App is inactive. No information about it is being promoted, monitored or followed up on.

Whilst there are multiple avenues provided by the State for victims/survivors of GBV and domestic violence to receive shelter, legal support, or legal aid (though needing many improvements), it is unclear if these services extend to victims/survivors of TFSGBV.¹²

2.2. Lack of capacity of responders/service providers

Though a response mechanism to TFSGBV exists in Sri Lanka, across state and non-state service sectors, responders or service providers lack capacity to provide victim-survivors with the support they need. This lack of capacity is multidimensional; through CEJ's work with service providers and responders, it has been noted that there is a lack of technical capacity as well as knowledge gaps in gender sensitivities and providing survivor-centric care and responses.

For example, in workshops and discussions with police personnel in Anuradhapura, some older participants did not know how to operate a smart phone, or even take a screenshot. The lack of these skills would prevent them from effectively recording and filing evidence for cases of TFSGBV. Similarly, across Anuradhapura, Puttalam, Batticaloa, Kilinochchi and Colombo it was noted that responders such as the police, mental health service providers, Women Development Officers (WDOs) and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) lacked the sensitivities crucial for dealing with victim-survivors of violence. Many displayed inherent cultural and social biases that contributed to stigma and stereotyping in the form of victim-blaming and shaming.

2.3. Understanding intersectional experiences of victim-survivors

Individuals with diverse SOGIESC face multiple challenges when they try to report TFSGBV crimes. Responders often lack capacity to understand the nuances and specific experiences of persons with diverse SOGIESC, and use phobic or stereotypical language that further traumatises the victim-survivor. In workshops conducted by CEJ, it was noted that most responders do not understand the complexities of sex and gender and often conflate the two, allowing for personal biases to hinder their service delivery. A key informant interview conducted with a CSO worker discussed how understanding survivors' experiences through an intersectional lens will allow for more targeted and specific responses to TFSGBV that take into account each individual's unique experiences.

¹⁰ Khyati Wickramanayake, The Victim and Witness Protection Authority: An Important Resource for Victims 2021. <http://bit.ly/3ZJBS8S>

¹¹ UNDP Sri Lanka, Cyber Care App launched to combat cyber violence in Sri Lanka. 2021. <https://bit.ly/4go0smD>

¹² Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA) (2021). Optimizing Screening and Support Services for Gender-Based Violence and Trafficking in Person Victims: Sri Lanka. The Asia Foundation.

A Key Informant also noted that women human rights defenders (WHRDs) and women politicians are often exposed to TFSGBV from both local and diaspora communities. Additionally, forms of TFSGBV such as hate speech, manipulated images, and other forms of cyber harassment are used to bully women in politics into silence or to humiliate them in response to their advocacy on social issues. This is particularly pronounced when the women politicians are from minority Tamil or Muslim communities. In the case of WHRDs, especially those working on MMDA¹³ reforms, attacks from their own communities are common in the form of hate speech and defamation. Another Key Informant highlighted the differences in the way men and women are perceived in the digital space, especially in the context of politics. Where male politicians are able to get mass engagement and traction from the same user base, regardless of the type of content they put out, any piece of content posted by a female politician is more likely to be subject to strong criticism, hate speech, and sexualisation.

2.4. Lack of adequate psychosocial support services for victim-survivors

The lack of quality psychosocial support for TFSGBV is an extension of the lack of support for SGBV cases in Sri Lanka. State counselling services, available through Counselling Assistants (CAs) at the District Secretariat, are generally first responders in cases of TFSGBV, where psychosocial support is needed. However, many CAs lack the knowledge and understanding of TFSGBV to provide the care that victim-survivors need. Additionally, many CAs also lack formal training and sensitivities to effectively support victim-survivors of SGBV and TFSGBV, which contributes to a reluctance amongst the general public to access these services. CAs also lack private spaces to provide counselling in a confidential manner, as most meetings are done over a desk, surrounded by other officials, in a government office.

2.5. Lack of resources

Children and Women desks are not a mandatory requirement at local police stations and as a result, not all police stations have them. Police stations that have these desks are underfunded and lack the necessary resources to function effectively. In a Focus Group Discussion with police from the Children and Women desks in police stations in the Puttalam District, participants expressed frustration at the lack of dedicated computers to work on and vehicles or funds to conduct home visits or follow-ups in cases of SGBV and TFSGBV. Additionally, they expressed that in the police station, the Children and Women desks were not taken seriously and were deprioritized in budget allocation and provision of private spaces.

2.6. Language barrier and geographical barriers in reporting cases

In a key informant interview conducted at the time of writing this report, the language barrier in case reporting was highlighted. The interviewee, a Woman Human Rights Defender actively working in this space, expressed how if it is a case relating to cybercrime, the case has to be filed in Colombo, under the CCIU. If the victim is located outside of Colombo, they have to travel long distances to file the complaint and if the officers only speak Sinhala, no translations are provided. If a translator accompanies the victim-survivor, they are not allowed to go beyond a certain point at the CCIU, which is counterproductive and does not serve the purpose.

This language barrier was also documented in Kilinochchi, where police personnel revealed that only a handful of officers in the district spoke Tamil, and the rest spoke Sinhala. This meant that only some police stations in the district had a Tamil-speaking officer at hand to receive complaints and liaise with the victim-survivor.

¹³ Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act (MMDA) 1951 of Sri Lanka

2.7. Lack of a coordinated response mechanism

Though the response mechanism to TFSGBV in Sri Lanka spans multiple sectors, there is a disconnect between service providers. A rapid assessment¹⁴ conducted by CEJ focusing on Colombo, Anuradhapura, Kilinochchi, and Batticaloa found that the current response system for TFSGBV is fragmented and inconsistent. There is no standardized reporting procedure, limited inter-organizational collaboration, and inconsistent internal practices. This hinders effective responses, leads to inconsistent support for victims, and causes confusion for those seeking help.

In cross-sector discussions conducted by CEJ that brought together police, mental health service providers, local government officials such as WDOs, local CSOs/CBOs and youth, it was found that service providers rarely collaborate when working on cases of TFSGBV. In several instances, service providers present at the discussion discovered that they had been working on the same case unknowingly, without ever having crossed paths. This was further evidenced in FGDs conducted by CEJ at the time of writing of this report, where responders themselves indicated that there is little to no collaboration between different sectors of service providers.

A coordinated response mechanism where law enforcement, the justice sector, the health sector, local government and civil society work collaboratively, build networks and make referrals where necessary, is imperative to effectively address TFSGBV in Sri Lanka.

3. Lack of awareness among the general public

3.1. Reluctance of victims to report and seek redress

One reason for this reluctance is that many are disillusioned with the institutions that they would have to approach due to their lack of efficiency, lack of professionalism, and perpetuation of biases. Victims are also unaware of the existence of the laws and mechanisms to address TFSGBV offences. The general public often do not possess a satisfactory awareness and understanding of the nature of TFSGBV, and are sometimes unaware that they have been victim-survivors in the first place. Without such understanding, it is very unlikely that victim-survivors or witnesses of TFSGBV will be able to identify the incidents and take relevant action. Another concern pertaining to lack of awareness is that school children, given the non-provision of sexual and reproductive health education at school, are unaware and/or unable to identify that they have been victimised or harassed.

Another reason for reluctance is the social pressure that they are likely to face once disclosure of any form has been made that they are a victim of TFSGBV. Social responses like victim blaming and hostility by the authorities and even the victim's family often lead to fear, and even shame, dissuading victims from taking relevant measures.

3.2. Self-censorship and shrinking civic space

A nationally representative online survey conducted by CEJ in late 2023 confirmed that self-censorship is gendered in Sri Lanka. 56.4% of respondents stated that they have personally refrained from expressing their opinions online or know someone who has due to the fear of backlash based on gender. 67% of women and 100% of transgender individuals reported experiencing this, but only 49% of men. Notably, the percentage

¹⁴ Centre for Equality and Justice, Trapped: A Rapid Assessment of the Prevalence and Response to Cases of Cyber Sexual and Gender Based Violence and Gendered Online Hate Speech. 2023. <https://bit.ly/41HRNHe>

increases substantially to 75% for people involved in online activism or advocacy, suggesting that gender may be being weaponized to suppress fundamental rights such as the freedoms of expression, association and assembly (FOEAA). 42% of respondents indicated they have either witnessed or personally experienced online censorship or restrictions related to discussions on gender and SGBV in Sri Lanka. 46% of Sinhala speakers, 52% of Tamil speakers, and 37% of English speakers reported witnessing or experiencing censorship.

The survey also revealed a gender gap in who reported taking action to safeguard their online privacy or security, or knowing someone who did (59.2% of all respondents said they have taken action or know someone who did). This included 67% of women, and 54% of men. Among those who reported refraining from expressing opinions online, 72% also reported taking steps to protect online privacy or security. Only a quarter (25%) believe that persons of diverse SOGIESC always feel comfortable expressing their views openly online, and 29% think they sometimes feel at ease. 36% state that they believe persons of diverse SOGIESC rarely or never feel comfortable, and 10% express uncertainty about the comfort levels of individuals of diverse genders in online spaces.

3.3. Prevalence of gender norms and harmful stereotypes

Though the State has taken some steps to address the prevalence of gender norms and harmful stereotypes such as the implementation of the National Action Plan to Address Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Sri Lanka, public awareness initiatives and strategic media campaigns to address discriminatory stereotypes against women and gender-based violence, heightened levels of biases and stereotypes prevail, even among service providers which is harmful to victim-survivors who seek support services.

In a recent FGD conducted by CEJ, attended by responders to TFSGBV such as members of CSOs, doctors and nurses from the office of the Judicial Medical Officer, WDOs and other local government officials, it was evident that they brought their personal biases into assessing a victim-survivor. Comments about the length of school uniforms worn by school children, excessive access to technology, and adolescents engaging in romantic relationships were made when discussing the causes of TFSGBV. Additionally, it was observed that many participants easily resorted to victim-blaming and shaming instead of shifting the blame onto the perpetrator.

4. Training & Resources on TFSGBV to Responders/Service Providers

While numerous training resource material exists in Sri Lanka to address TFSGBV, their scattered nature hinders effective utilization. Many of these training resources are those designed and provided by CSOs or other private institutions and are therefore delivered in an ad hoc manner, and are often dependent on funding and continuity of projects. One of the primary challenges is the lack of state-level commitment to training and upskilling responders on TFSGBV. Without adequate training, even the most comprehensive resources will remain under-utilised.

Moreover, relevant training should be integrated into the curriculum of institutions like the police training college to ensure that law enforcement personnel receive basic training and gender sensitivity from the outset of their careers. This proactive approach will better prepare them to handle TFSGBV cases more effectively. Also, while ensuring that basic level of knowledge, it is important to establish a system of ongoing training and capacity building to ensure that responders remain updated on the latest developments in TFSGBV and best practices for addressing it. Additionally, such training should not be limited to female personnel alone, as victims often interact with male law enforcement officers before reaching specialised units/desks.

Recommendations

Similar to CEJ's work on TFSGBV, there have been multiple CSO-led interventions on addressing the issue in Sri Lanka over the years, bringing much-needed visibility to the issue. However, state commitment is needed for further and more sustainable initiatives to adequately address TFSGBV in Sri Lanka.

Amend existing laws to expressly include TFSGBV

- Amendments to the Penal Code (Ordinance No. 2 of 1883) to include TFSGBV as an offence. Amendments to the OSA (No. 9 of 2024) to ensure it better aligns with its original objective to protect women and children from online violence.
- Overall, laws should be amended to explicitly criminalize various forms of TFSGBV, ensuring clarity and consistency in legal interpretation.

Tailoring the existing laws and their implementation to be victim-centric

- Prioritize victim protection, including confidentiality, minimizing trauma during investigations, and providing access to counselling and support services.
- Responders and service providers must adopt a compassionate and understanding approach and recognize the unique challenges faced by victims, and provide appropriate support, ensuring a trauma-informed response.

Improve capacities of service providers

- Provide mandatory training on TFSGBV as a part of broader SGBV training to service providers at a preliminary level. For example, at the Sri Lanka Police College.
- Collaborate with civil society to design and implement training on TFSGBV for service providers
- State commitment to streamline training materials on TFSGBV and provide standardized training on TFSGBV to ensure consistency and quality of such training.
- Foster networks among service providers from different sectors to ensure greater collaboration and fluidity of the response mechanism from start to finish.
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for first responders such as the police need to be developed and training provided to streamline the process from the stage of filing a complaint to litigation.
- Relevant ministries such as the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Children's Affairs must include TFSGBV in their training of WDOs, and other local government officers dealing with the community as a specific aspect of SGBV
- A State-led and managed, sustainable online reporting platform with trained and skilled personnel to respond to complaints of TFSGBV in a timely manner and take immediate action to refer time-sensitive cases to relevant service providers. For example, where victim-survivors are contemplating suicide.
- Increase state funding and resources towards building better structures for psychosocial support mechanisms.
- Provide Psychological First Aid (PFA)¹⁵ training for service providers to improve quality of care from first responders in cases of TFSGBV.

Encourage reporting and build trust in the response mechanism

¹⁵ Psychological First Aid (PFA) is an evidence-informed approach that is built on the concept of human resilience. PFA aims to reduce stress symptoms and assist in a healthy recovery following a traumatic event, natural disaster, public health emergency, or even a personal crisis.

- Conduct awareness programmes to increase knowledge on reporting and response mechanisms amongst the general public.
- Conduct programmes to connect citizens with service providers to build trust in the response mechanism and combat stigma and harmful stereotyping.
- School curricula reforms must include TFSGBV as a form of SGBV and teacher training must be provided on sensitive delivery of the subject matter to students.