

**PRAJNYA 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN
AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE**

In 2022, the Prajnya 16 Days Campaign against Gender Violence took tentative steps back into the real world and in-person programmes. If the joy of face-to-face interaction drew us in this direction, the incredible global reach of online platforms drew us back towards online programmes. The future, clearly, is hybrid!

This year's focus area was domestic violence. This was in part because of Prajnya team members' association with the British Academy-funded Surviving Violence project which looks at help-seeking experiences of domestic violence survivors across Indian states. Beyond the four programmes explicitly associated with this project, though, we found ourselves returning to topics and questions around family violence and intimate partner violence in other programmes too.

The other highlight for us was the ability to showcase the work of our Rajaram Research Fellows in the Campaign. Three of our four current Fellows presented their ongoing work. Preeti Karmarkar was part of a workshop on the functioning of Local Committees. Arshie Showkat Qureshi and Radheshyam Jadhav presented their projects in closed research symposia.

Our breakthrough programme this year—that is, programmes we have long wished to do but finally managed to organize—was “Ensuring Access to Reproductive Care,” a workshop where we collaborated with ATNRCOG and IRC India South to discuss reproductive rights and supportive clinical practices.

We returned to an in-person poetry reading after many years, with “Stand in Solidarity or Sit in Silence,” organized in partnership with Mockingbirds and InKo Centre.

Cyclone Mandous washed out the last day of our Campaign which we were to have spent with schoolchildren in an art activity. We will organize this at another time.

It's been an intense campaign, with many serious discussion programmes. But we emerge feeling like we have given it our all and perhaps made a small difference by creating platforms for such discussions.

The Prajnya Team

2022 Prajnya 16 Days Campaign Calendar

Day 1: November 25, 2022 Launch of 2022 Gender Violence in India report 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. IST Registration needed	Day 2: November 26, 2022 Launch of 2022 Showcase: Prajnya's Gender Violence research library On Prajnya's social accounts	Day 3: November 27, 2022 Community Cafe	Day 4: November 28, 2022 Surviving Violence:Everyday Resilience and Gender Justice Webinar 3:30-5:30 p.m. IST Registration needed
Day 5: November 29, 2022 1. Local Committees, Remote Justice 2:30-5 p.m. IST 2. Collective Responsibility, Collective Action 3-4:40 p.m. IST Registration needed	Day 6: November 30, 2022 Gender Violence against Religious Minorities Closed college programme	Day 7: December 1, 2022 Responding to domestic violence: Training 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. IST Registration needed	Day 8: December 2, 2022 1. The Cost of Work Research symposium By invitation only. 2. Stand in Solidarity or Sit in Silence! Poetry Reading 6:30-8:30 p.m. IST All are welcome
Day 9: December 3, 2022 Visual Representations of Gender-based Violence 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. IST) Registration needed	Day 10: December 4, 2022 Community Cafe	Day 11: December 5, 2022 Help-seeking during shutdowns Research symposium By invitation only	Day 12: December 6, 2022 Ensuring Access to Reproductive Choice:A Workshop By invitation
Day 13: December 7, 2022 Tamil Nadu Domestic Violence Support Services: A Mapping (Online.) Follow on Prajnya's social accounts	Day 14: December 8, 2022 Domestic violence and access to justice: regional perspectives 2:30-4:30 p.m. IST Registration needed	Day 15: December 9, 2022 Love, Honour and Law: A roundtable on draft legislation on crimes in the name of honour 3:30-5:30 p.m. IST Registration needed	Day 16: December 10, 2022 Colours of Equality  For details & registration links: prajnya.in/16d22

2022 Campaign Partners



Campaign Donations

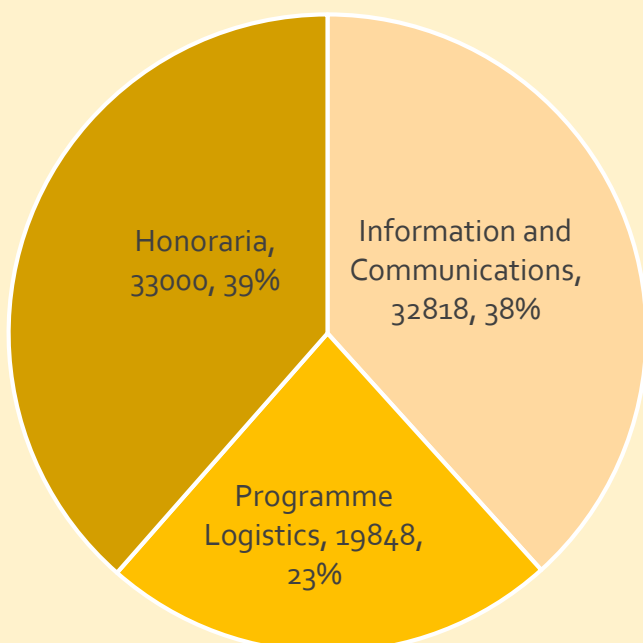
Thank you to the following donors who generously supported the 2022 Campaign:

Anand Philip; Anupama Srinivasan; Farheen Nahvi; Harish; Ilmas Futehally; Iswarya V; Monika Mehta; Nandhini Shanmugham; Padma Mahadevan; Padmaja Nanduri; Rajni Bakshi; Savitha Rengabashyam; Sudha Rajagopalan; Sweta Narayanan; Tanya Rana; Uma Ekambaram; Varudhini Shanmugham; and Vignesh VM.

Total donations received: ₹ 131, 941

Campaign expenses

Expenses by category



- *Honoraria*: Token thanks to resource people
- *Information and communications*: Printing of campaign materials.
- *Programme logistics*: Banners, sound system rental, photographer, refreshments and travel.

Total expenses: ₹ 85,666



2022

DAY BY DAY

Gender Violence in India: Report Launch

1.

November 25

Prajnya's Gender Violence in India Report is meant to be used as a ready reference for activists, journalists, students, lawyers and anyone with an interest in gender justice.

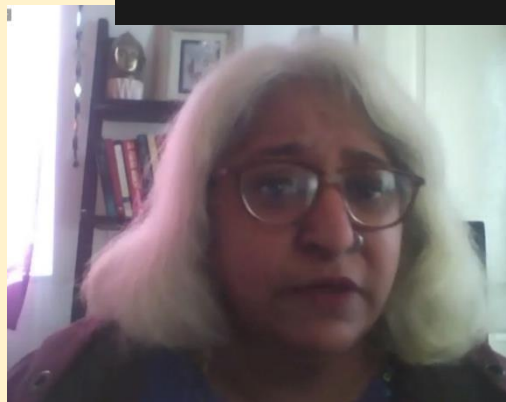
Kausumi Saha, curator-author since 2020, presented highlights of the report which introduces a section on intersectionality.

Professor Saumya Uma, Jindal Global Law School, gave a talk on the report and related themes.

Dr. Shakthi S. facilitated the session.



A PRAJNYA REPORT
2022



Access the report: <https://prajnya.in/storage/app/media/gvr22.pdf>

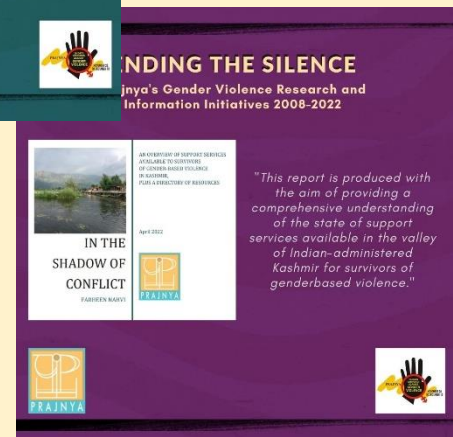
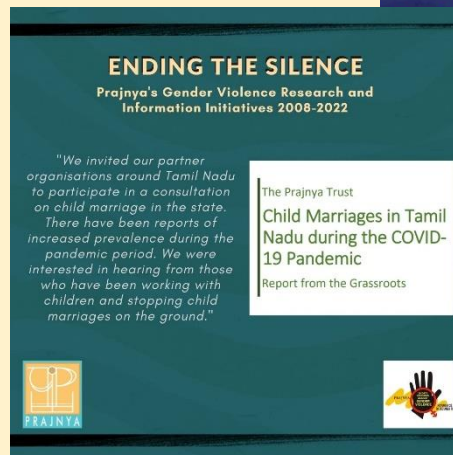
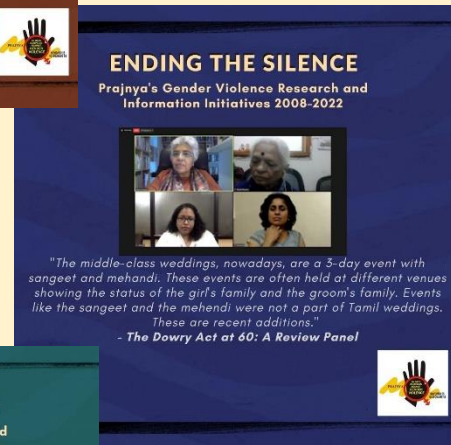
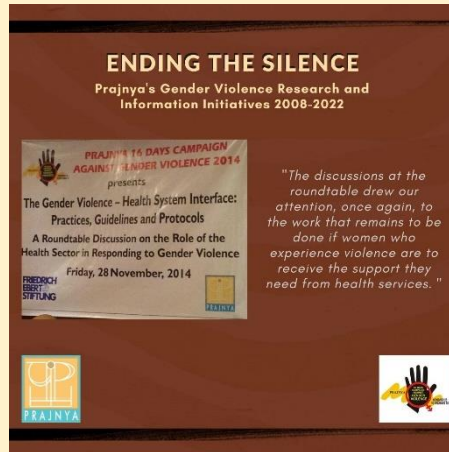
Access the launch video: https://youtu.be/javVFJV_7CQ

Showcase Weekend || Prajnya Research on Gender Violence: A Selective Review

2 & 3.

November 26-27

In 2022, Prajnya turned 15. For fifteen years, through small and larger research projects, including those undertaken by our Rajaram Research Fellows, and information initiatives, online and offline, we have built a small library of work on gender violence. We wanted to showcase and celebrate this effort in the campaign this year.



Access Prajnya's gender violence-related publications:
<https://prajnya.in/gritpapers>

Access our gender violence research blog:
<https://gritprajnya.wordpress.com>

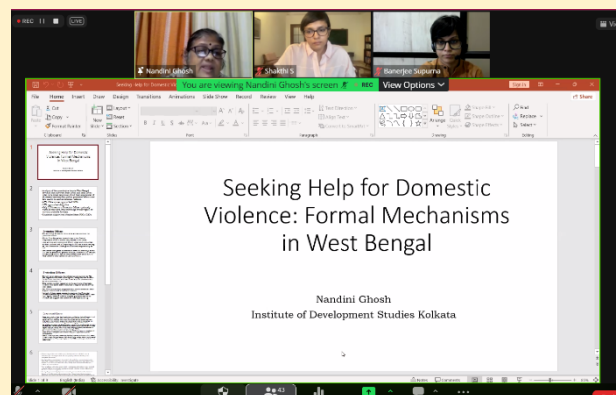
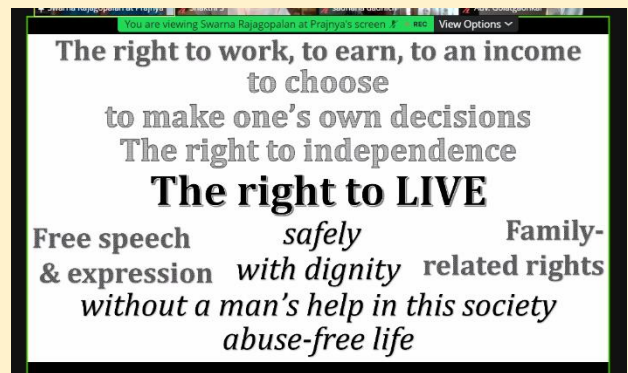
Surviving Violence: Everyday Resilience and Gender Justice

4.

November 28

How do women who have experienced domestic violence, experience the process of seeking help? The three research teams of the Surviving Violence project from Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal shared their preliminary observations at this panel.

Surviving Violence: Everyday resilience and gender justice in rural-urban India is funded by the British Academy Heritage Dignity and Violence Programme HDV190009. Research partners: Queen Mary University of London, Chaitanya-The Policy Consultancy, IIT Bombay, Institute of Development Studies Kolkata, Nari Samata Manch and University of Oxford.



Learn more about the project: <https://www.survivingviolence.org>

Access the panel video: <https://youtu.be/5aoLmLAnkpU>

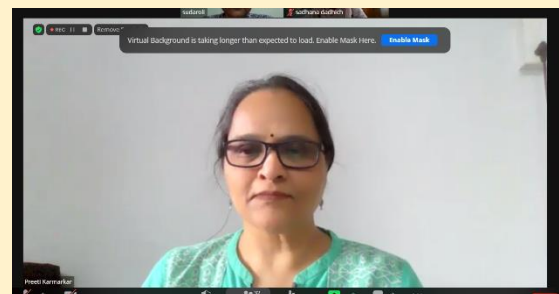
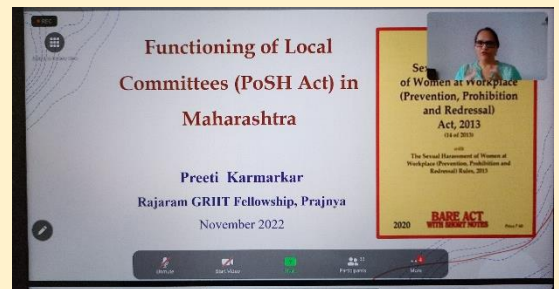
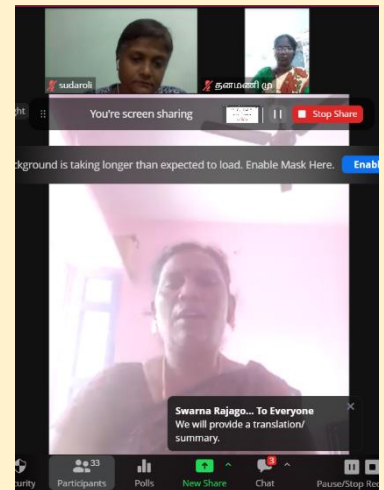
Local Committees, Remote Justice: A Structured Discussion

5.

November 29 Event 1

An afternoon of structured discussion on the awareness and working of Local Committees began with a presentation of a survey conducted in Tamil Nadu by the Tamil Nadu Labourers' Rights Federation and Gramavaani. Local officials present at the discussion responded.

This was followed by a presentation of research-in-progress on the functioning of Local Committees in Maharashtra by Rajaram Research Fellow, Preeti Karmarkar. Dr. Anagha Sarpotdar offered a commentary on the presentation and related issues.



Access Prajnya's videos on workplace sexual harassment remedies for domestic workers, street vendors and farm workers:

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLShNAJJxu73X1Dna_KYiGCWe_d-No02WHW

5.

November 29

Event 2

Collective Responsibility, Collective Action: A Town Hall



Women in Global Health, in collaboration with Prajnya, hosted its third regional town hall on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Assault, and Harassment (PSEAH), focused on the Asian region.

Speakers included:

- Dr. Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director for WHO South East Asia; (Keynote)
- Ms. Anis Haroon, the Sindh representative of the National Commission of Human Rights, Pakistan; (Keynote)
- Ann Keeling, Senior Fellow, Women in Global Health;
- Dr Sabrina Rasheed, Scientist, ICCDR,B; and lead for the Bangladesh chapter of Women in Global Health;
- Ms. Veenu Kakkar, Gender Expert & Trainer; PSEA consultant with UNICEF;
- Mrs. Rizza Pamintuan, PGH Women's Desk;
- Sigma Huda, President of Bangladesh Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA); Founder & Secretary of Institute for Law and Development (ILD);
- Arfa Kamal, HELP Foundation Kashmir;
- Ms. Sangeeta Rege, Director, CEHAT (Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes).

Watch the event video here: <https://youtu.be/ch8ICG834Wk>

6.

November 30

On Wednesday, November 30, 2022, the campaign went to Ethiraj College Department of Human Rights. We had invited Bader Sayeed, eminent lawyer, former Tamil Nadu MLA and founder, Roshni (NGO) to participate in a conversation with Vaishna Roy, editor, Frontline.

The conversation covered issues relating to text, personal choice and legal frameworks.

Gender Violence against Religious Minorities: A Conversation

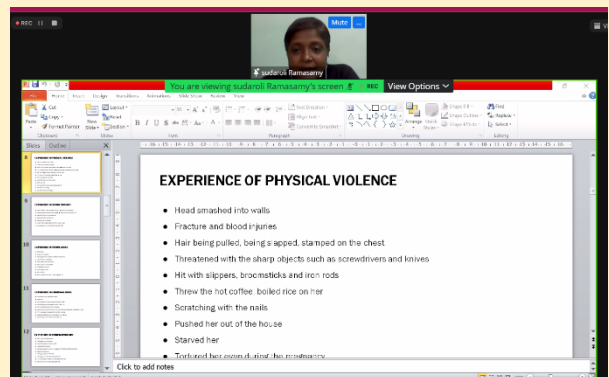
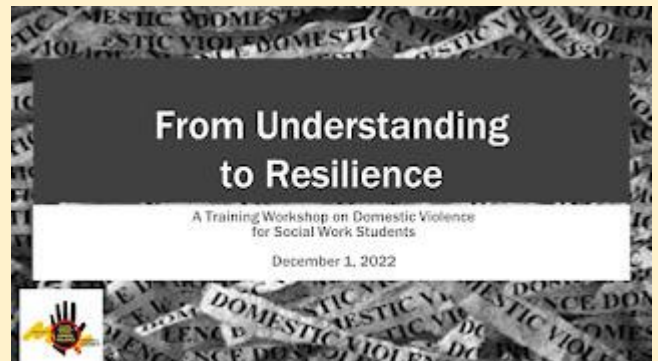


Responding to Domestic Violence: A Training Workshop

7.
December 1

ACR Sudaroli facilitated a workshop on how to recognise and respond to domestic violence. The training workshop was meant for social work students and early career social workers. Given that one in three women experience abuse, the probability of their encountering a victim-survivor is high and the purpose of the workshop was to give them some skills to be a first responder.

The briefing on domestic violence drew on the findings in Tamil Nadu of the Surviving Violence project. This training is part of the outreach work of the research project.



Check out the Surviving Violence project here:
<https://www.survivingviolence.org>

The Cost of Work: SGBV against Sugarcane Cutters: Research Symposium

8.

December 2 Event 1

On December 2, 2022, Dr. Radheshyam Jadhav, journalist and Rajaram Research Fellow, presented his ongoing research project on the web of gender-based violence within which women sugarcane cutters in Maharashtra seek and carry out their work. The point of departure for his work has been forced hysterectomies but his research places that in the broader context of structural patriarchal violence and regional economies.

Dr. Gayatri Menon, Azim Premji University; Professor Meena Gopal, TISS Mumbai and Dr. Mekhala Krishnamurthy, Ashoka University and Centre for Policy Research served as discussants.



Check out work by other Research Fellows at <https://prajnya.in/gritpapers>

Stand in Solidarity or Sit in Silence: Poetry Reading

8.

December 2 Event 2

The Campaign Poetry Reading has always been a calendar highlight and we were delighted to return to an in-person reading this year.

We partnered with Mockingbirds and InKo Centre this year. We had Srilata K, Kutti Revathi, Aaliyah Banu, Manushi Bharathi and Amrin Khalil reading their poetry.

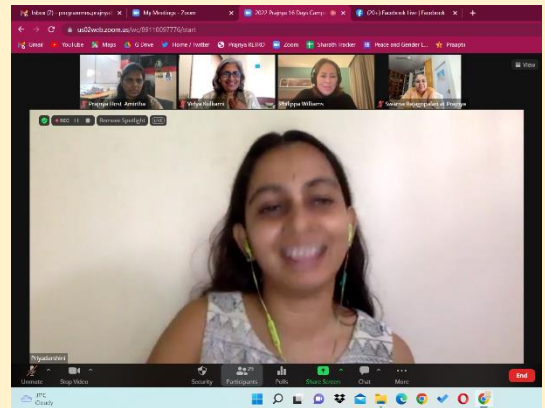
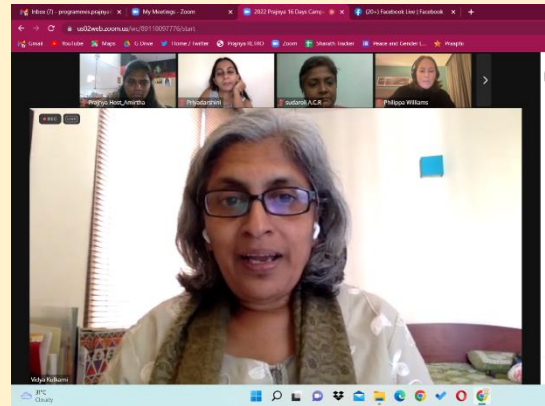
The evening was every bit as wonderful as it always is.



Visual Representations of Gender-Based Violence

9.
December 3

In this webinar, photographers Vidya Kulkarni and Priyadarshini Ravichandran, addressed the question "What are appropriate ways to represent gender-based violence visually?" in a session facilitated by Dr. Philippa Williams, Queen Mary University of London.



Prajnya 16 Days Campaign against Gender Violence 2022 invites you to

VISUAL REPRESENTATIONS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Panel and Interaction

featuring photographers Vidya Kulkarni & Priyadarshini Ravichandran

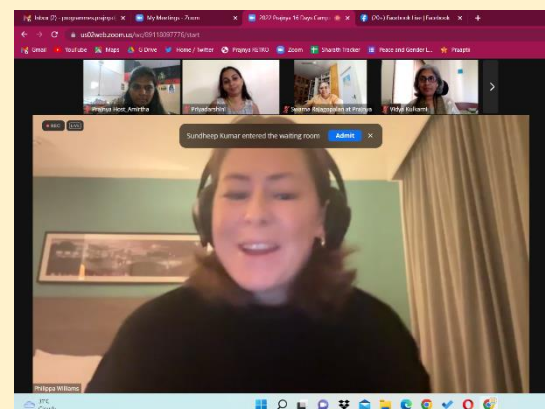

facilitated by Philippa Williams

Saturday, December 3, 2022
11 a.m. to 1 p.m. IST

To register:
<https://cutt.ly/gvpix>

This conversation is part of the research project **Surviving Violence: Everyday resilience and gender justice in rural-urban India**
<https://www.survivingviolence.org/>

Photo credits: Vidya Kulkarni (above) and Priyadarshini Ravichandran (below)



Access the video of this discussion here:
<https://youtu.be/Bu-FMzVxKsU>

Community Café at the Better World Shelter

10.

December 4

Community Cafes are private gatherings of individuals known to each other, who come together over a cup of coffee or tea to talk about gender violence. By placing what is usually unspeakable on the conversation table, we create breaches in the wall of silence that keeps victims from speaking out and their communities from helping them.

During the 2022 Campaign, Prajnya visited the Better World Shelter and conversed with residents about violence, social attitudes towards disability and sexual exploitation.



If you would like to invite us to facilitate a Community Cafe for you--in-person within Chennai and online beyond--just [email us](#).

Shutdowns and Domestic Violence Help-Seeking: A research symposium

11.

December 5

Rajaram Research Fellow, Arshie Showkat Qureshi presented her ongoing work on the impact of successive shutdowns on the ability of Kashmiri women to access help when they experienced violence. Sarala Emmanuel, activist and researcher, from Batticaloa, Sri Lanka brought to the discussion perspectives from a region that had also experienced conflict over a long period.



Read our earlier publication on domestic violence victim support services in Kashmir:

<https://prajnya.in/storage/app/media/kashfar.pdf%22>

Check out work by other Research Fellows at

<https://prajnya.in/gritpapers>

12.

December 6

This workshop on issues related to sexual and reproductive health rights from the point of view of health care providers was organized in partnership with ATNRCOG and IRC India South. The workshop had several components, all of which were interactive.

- Dr. Uma Ram and Dr. Jaishree Gajaraj discussed how to handle and respond to requests for abortion.
- Archanaa Seker spoke about access to contraception.
- Swarna Rajagopalan made an introductory presentation on domestic violence
- Dr. Prabha Swaminathan shared insights on how health care providers might respond to signs of violence.

The presentations were followed by a programme of skits written and performed effectively by doctors on scenarios where patients seek reproductive health care or may be facing abuse.



13.

December 7

Tamil Nadu Domestic Violence Support Services: A Mapping

A new Prajnya resource was launched: the Tamil Nadu Directory of Support Services for Violence Victim-Survivors. This data was compiled for a mapping exercise of the Surviving Violence project (<http://survivingviolence.org>) and has been edited and updated by the Prajnya Team.

At present, the directory includes information about five categories of support services for victim-survivors of violence, namely: 1. Swadhar Home; 2. Family Counselling Centres; 3. One Stop Centres; 4. Protection Officers; 5. All Women Police Stations.

A Tamil translation will be published soon.



Access the resource here: <https://cutt.ly/tnhelpeng>

Domestic violence and access to justice: Regional perspectives

14.
December 8

South Asian states have passed laws on domestic violence but survivors still struggle to access justice. This panel brought together the experiences of domestic violence victims in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India as they try to access justice.

The panelists were: Sara Hossein, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust; Saba Shaikh, Dastak, Pakistan; Ermiza Tegal, lawyer, Sri Lanka; Shazia Choudhry, Oxford University and Philippa Williams, Queen Mary University of London. The session was facilitated by Suneeta Dhar.

This panel was part of the project Surviving Violence: Everyday resilience and gender justice in rural-urban India funded by the British Academy Heritage Dignity and Violence Programme HDV190009.

Access to justice involves legal protection, legal awareness, legal aid and legal representation, adjudication, enforcement, and civil society oversight.

Domestic violence and the laws in India

PWDVA (2005)

1. Private to public matter
2. Expanded meaning of 'domestic relationship'
3. Broader definition of 'violence'
4. Mix of criminal and civil laws
5. Recognises the complexity of victim-survivors situations
6. Intends for a joined-up approach to support and service provision = Protection Officers (POs)

Credit: Vidya Kulkarni

Turning to Informal Mechanisms of Justice

- "The woman will first go to the parent's house for resolving the issue. (Panchayat) from the result of the mediation the family will then choose where to go if it's police station or lawyers. But in this, they will initially go to the station and from which they will approach the lawyer and the court. Muslims will primarily approach the Jamath, whereas other women will approach the elders of the family and village. The religious system has a separate system - also Christians will approach the church and the father." (interview with a lawyer, Tamil Nadu)
- "Kalyani recounts how the panchayat mediated in a meeting to convince her to go back to her household after an incident of violence saying that since it was the first time that it occurred. Resultantly she returned to her violent domestic space and have never since tried other forms of intervention fearing it will invite criticism of her character." (West Bengal)
- "I had approached the chief of the masjid committee but they never helped me, in fact they told my husband that I had approached them." Another survivor stated that she approached the masjid in their community and they told her husband to behave well." (Maharashtra)

You can watch a recording of the discussion here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oA7_u-FGFXs

Read more about the Surviving Violence project here:
<https://www.survivingviolence.org>

Love, Honour and Law: A roundtable on draft legislation on crimes in the name of honour

15.
December 9

This online roundtable discussed the draft bill on 'Prevention of Crimes in the Name of Honour' that is being shared by Vincent Raj K. for debate in the Tamil Nadu Assembly.

The discussants were Abirami Jotheeswaran, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights- NCDHR; V. Suresh, National General Secretary, People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) and Dr. Manisha Gupte, MASUM.

Shalin Maria Lawrence facilitated the session.

You can view the recording of the roundtable here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBilKj1fqw8&t=1s>



16.

December 10

COLOURS OF EQUALITY
An on-the-spot art activity celebrating human rights

THEMES

Right to equality:
• You are born free and equal in rights
• You have the right to equality of opportunity

Cancelled on account of Cyclone Mandous

TIME: 10 A.M. TO 12 P.M.

PRAJNYA
ROSHNI
PRAJNYA

A Red Alert issued for the weekend of December 10 washed out our plan to hold an on-the-spot art activity at the Roshni Matriculation School. 120+ students had registered! We will schedule this for a later date. After all, neither human rights nor art need an occasion to be celebrated!

STAY IN TOUCH!

DURING CAMPAIGN SEASON

Email: prajnya.16days@gmail.com

Web: www.prajnya.in/16days

Blog: www.prajnya16days.blogspot.com

Facebook:

fb.com/prajnya16dayscampaign

Twitter: [@prajnya](https://twitter.com/prajnya)

BEYOND CAMPAIGN SEASON

Email: grit.prajnya@gmail.com

Web: www.prajnya.in

Blog: gritprajnya.wordpress.com,
keepingcount.wordpress.com

Facebook: fb.com/prajnyatruster

Twitter: [@prajnya](https://twitter.com/prajnya)

Instagram: [prajnyatruster](https://www.instagram.com/prajnyatruster)