



LET'S STEP FORWARD FOR JUSTICE

ASSISTANCE TO
AND PROTECTION
OF VICTIMS OF
CRIME AND
WITNESSES ACT
(NO. 4 OF 2015)

Shelter for **Integrity**
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**DO YOU FEAR
BEING HARMED
FOR STANDING UP
FOR JUSTICE?**



**YOU CAN REQUEST
ASSISTANCE
AND PROTECTION !**

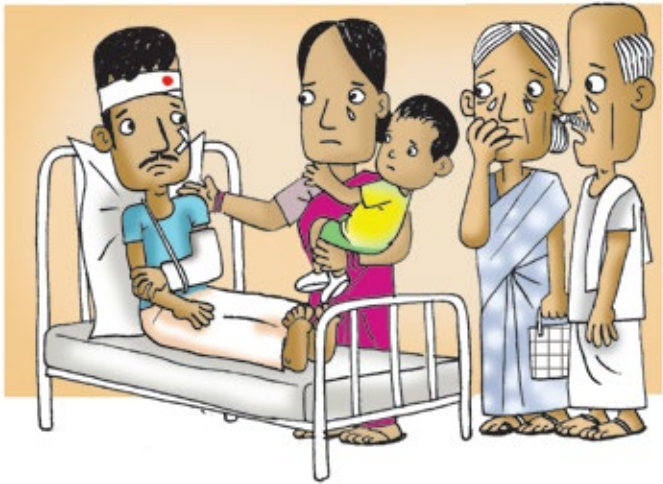
**INTRODUCING THE ASSISTANCE TO AND
PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF CRIME
AND WITNESSES ACT (VWP ACT)**

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES YOU CAN FACE?

- Vulnerability to threats, harassment, intimidation, retaliation or reprisal against you, or your family
- Lack of proper medical treatment and care
- Social stigma, and absence of psychological support
- Lack of immediate financial relief to redress harm to you and your family

WHY DO WE HAVE THE VWP LAW?

Before the VWP Act was passed, Sri Lanka did not have effective protections for victims and witnesses of crime. This law recognises that victims and witnesses have rights and entitlements, which are essential for an effective justice system.



According to the new law,

ARE YOU A VICTIM?

**YES,
IF YOU
HAVE:**

- Suffered physical, mental, emotional, economic or other harm because of an offence, or due to arbitrary arrest or detention
- Intervened to prevent an offence or assist a victim, and as a result suffer harm

**YES,
IF YOU
ARE:**

- A parent or guardian of a child
- Any family member, next of kin, dependent of a person
- Any person who is significantly important to a person

who falls under the above definition



ARE YOU A WITNESS?

YES, IF YOU HAVE:

- Lodged a complaint about an offence or violation of a fundamental or human right
- Provided information, made a statement with a law enforcement agency in an investigation into an offence or violation of a fundamental or human right
- Provided an affidavit or statement in support of a complaint or legal action by a victim
- Provided information or communication to a Commission
- Been/would be summoned by a court or a Commission

YES, IF YOU ARE:

- A public officer who has investigated into an offence or infringement of a fundamental right or a human right
- A victim of crime
- A child witness
- A family member of a witness, or a dependent of a witness
- Significantly important to the witness
- An expert witness
- A defense witness



ARE YOU A WHISTLEBLOWER?

Yes, if you have made a complaint, statement or given information to a law enforcement authority, court or Commission about an offence or a violation of human rights or fundamental rights in the place of employment and have as a consequence:

- Suffered harassment, intimidation, coercion, violation or suffering from loss or damage in mind, body or reputation or
- Suffered any adverse change to your employment

AS A VICTIM

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO (SEC.3)

- Be treated with equality, fairness, respect to dignity and privacy
- Receive prompt, appropriate and fair redress
- Be protected from harm
- Receive medical treatment for mental and physical harm
- Be informed of remedies, progress of investigations and available assistance
- Present a complaint and have it investigated
- Representation by a lawyer in investigations, inquiries and proceedings
- Obtain certified copies of reports e.g. Government Analysts' Reports
- Receive any assistance and information to participate at judicial or non judicial proceedings and be present in them

YOU ARE ENTITLED TO (SEC.4)

- Receive a sum of money in consideration of your expense incurred as a result of the offence and your participation in proceedings before a court or a commission
- Claim and obtain any required medical treatment from state, where resources are available
- Apply to the national authority for the protection of victims of crime and witnesses for financial assistance to obtain required medical treatment



AS A WITNESS

YOU ARE ENTITLED TO (SEC. 5)

- Fair and respectful treatment, ensuring dignity and privacy
- Be protected from harm, threat, intimidation or retaliation



WHAT TYPES OF ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION COULD YOU RECEIVE*? (SEC.22)

- Safety to yourself or your property
- Temporary accommodation
- Permanent re-location
- Temporary or permanent employment
- Re-identification
- Any other necessary measure

PROTECTION MEASURES MAY BE PROVIDED

- During and after the criminal investigation
- Before, during or after investigations by Commissions
- Before, during or after judicial proceedings.

* Grant of these protections would be subjected to availability of resources.



FROM WHERE CAN YOU REQUEST PROTECTION? (SEC. 21)

- National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses
- Victim and Witness Assistance and Protection Division of Sri Lanka Police Department
- Court, before which the case will be taken, is ongoing or have been concluded
- The Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery and Corruption (CIABOC), Human Rights Commission, a Commission of Inquiry, or a Special Presidential Commission of Inquiry
- An officer in charge of any police station

ARE YOU ENTITLED TO ANY COMPENSATION? (SEC.30)

Yes, if you are a victim, you can request interim compensation from the National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses

- For the bodily or mental injury, loss or damage to property and
- Money needed to get medical treatment, rehabilitation or counselling

DON'T FORGET,

Every High Court or Magistrate Court can order a convicted person to pay compensation to the victim not exceeding Rs. 1 million (Sec.28).

HAS SOMEONE TRIED TO INTERFERE WHEN YOU SEEK OR ASSIST JUSTICE?



FOR EXAMPLE BY

- Threatening to cause injury to you or a person you have an interest in (includes threats to damage property or reputation)
- Causing injury to you or damaging property
- Forcing you to leave a location
- Endangering your life by publishing/sharing your information
- Trying to bribe you to keep quiet

**THEY COULD BE PUNISHED BY
IMPRISONMENT AND FINES (SEC.8).**



CONTACT DETAILS OF AUTHORITY AND DIVISION

THE VICTIMS OF CRIME AND WITNESSES ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION DIVISION IN POLICE

Telephone - 0112326314

Address - No. 9 , Mihindu Mawatha, Colombo 12

NATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR THE PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF CRIME AND WITNESSES

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