

Silence Ends Here

Webinar Session

DOMESTIC ABUSE LAWS IN PUNJAB, PAKISTAN

Partnered With: Qadir Chambers

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The Founder of
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*I represent Fatima Zehra, Maryam, Rabia Basri,
I ensured your survival and your race's continuity.
Bore the burdens and hardships throughout.
Yet I was treated as a merchandise, without doubt.*

O! Why weren't my rights recognized by others?

O! Why wasn't I given the rights I deserved?



Webinar Objectives

01

Introduction to Domestic Violence

02

Types of Domestic Abuse

03

Punjab Protection of Women Against Violence Act 2016

04

How Victims Can Seek Protection

05

FSC Ruling

06

Practical Challenges in Enforcement

07

Recommendations & Reforms



Understanding Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is any violence or harmful behavior within a domestic relationship.

Punjab Protection of Women
against Violence Act 2016

Protection of Women Against
Violence (Amendment) Act 2022



 **2.(a)**

"aggrieved person" means a female who has been subjected to violence by a defendant;

 **2. (r)**

"violence" means any offence committed against the human body of the aggrieved person including abetment of an offence, domestic violence, sexual violence, psychological abuse, economic abuse, stalking or a cybercrime;

 **2.(h)**

"domestic violence" means the violence committed by the defendant with whom the aggrieved person is living or has lived in a house or visits the house when they are related to each other by consanguinity, marriage, adoption or in terms of employment;"



Types of Domestic Abuse

- 1 Physical Abuse
- 2 Emotional & Psychological Abuse
- 3 Economical Abuse
- 4 Cyber & Digital Abuse
- 5 Sexual Violence

Includes

Any offense committed against the human body of the aggrieved person, including abetment, assault, or causing bodily harm.

Relevant Provision

- Section 2(r): Definition of "violence."
- Section 7: Protection orders e.g., restraining orders, surrender any weapon
- Section 15: Power of Women Protection Officers to enter a house for rescue.
- 7(1)(d): Allows the court to order the defendant to wear a GPS tracker (ankle or wrist bracelet) in cases of grave violence.

Physical Violence

The Act uses the broader term "Violence" to cover offenses against the human body.



Psychological Abuse

The Act specifically defines this as "psychological violence."

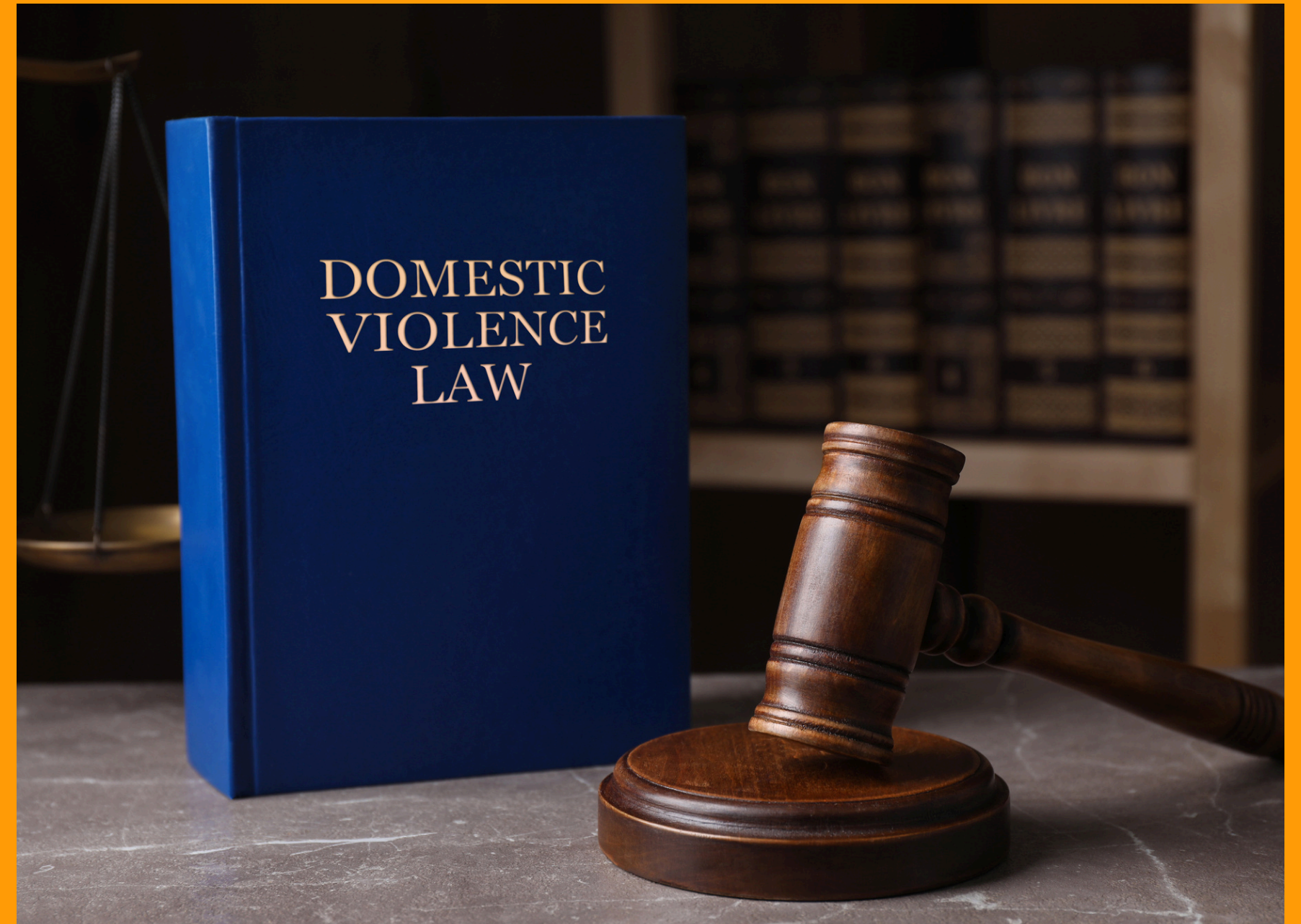


Type 2 of 5

- **Includes**
Psychological deterioration (which may result in anorexia, suicide attempts, or depression) resulting from oppressive behaviour or limiting freedom of movement.
- **Legal Requirement**
Under Section 2(r)(2), this condition must be certified by a panel of psychologists appointed by the District Women Protection Committee.
- **Relevant Provision**
 - Section 2(r): Definition
 - Section 7(1)(a–c): Protection orders to stop communication and maintain distance

Psychological Abuse = Physical Violence

***Justice Ayesha Malik** ruled in **CPLA No. 3268/24 (2025 SCP 392)** that courts must not demand physical or medical "proof" of mental abuse, as it often leaves no visible marks and occurs in private.*



Includes

Denial of food, clothing, and shelter in a domestic relationship (relative to the defendant's income) or taking away the aggrieved person's income without her consent.

Relevant Provision

- Section 2(r)(1): Definition.
- Section 9: Monetary orders (includes compensation for economic abuse, medical expenses, and loss of earnings).

Emotional Abuse

The Act provides a very specific definition for this type of abuse.



Digital Abuse & Stalking

These are explicitly listed as sub-types of "violence."



Type 4 of 5

- **Includes**
Stalking and cybercrimes.
- **Relevant Provision**
Section 2(r): Explicitly mentions "stalking or a cybercrime."

Includes

Any sexual offence committed against the aggrieved person.

Relevant Provision

- Section 2(r): Explicitly lists "sexual violence" as a form of violence.
- Section 13: Protection Centers (VAWCs) are mandated to collect forensic evidence for such cases within 24 hours.

Sexual Violence

Any sexual offence committed against the aggrieved person.



Interim Orders

Order Type	Section	Purpose
Interim Order	Section 6	Immediate relief as court deems just and proper while the case is pending. It may issue an order on the basis of an affidavit of the aggrieved person or any other material before the Court.
Protection Order	Section 7	Stops the defendant from communicating with or approaching the victim. The Court may impose any additional conditions or pass any other direction which it may deem reasonably necessary to protect and provide for the safety of the aggrieved person or any dependent child of the aggrieved person
Residence Order	Section 8	Ensures the victim isn't evicted or provides alternative accommodation.
Monetary Order	Section 9	Covers medical bills, lost wages, and maintenance.

How to Approach the Court (Section 4)

A victim does NOT need to go to the police first to seek civil protection. She can go directly to the Family Court.

Who Can File:

The victim (aggrieved person), an authorized representative, or a Women Protection Officer (WPO).

Where to File:

In the district where the victim lives, where the defendant lives, or where they last lived together (PO).

Timeline:

First Hearing: Within 7 Days of Filing

Notice to Defendant: The defendant has 7 days to reply.

Final Decision: The court must decide the case within 90 days.

Types of Domestic Abuse

The Act provides three main types of relief to ensure safety and financial stability:

Protection Orders (Section 7)

The court can order the defendant to:

- Stop all communication (calls, texts, social media).
- Stay a specific distance away from the victim.
- Section 7(1)(d): Wear a GPS tracker (ankle or wrist bracelet) in cases of grave violence.
- Section 7(1)(f): Surrender any licensed weapons.

Residence Orders (Section 8)

To ensure the victim is not made homeless:

- Section 8(1)(a): Prohibits the victim from being evicted from the shared house.
- Section 8(1)(f): If the victim cannot stay in the house, the defendant must pay for alternative accommodation or rent.
- Section 8(1)(c): Relocation to a Shelter Home for safety.

Protection Orders (Section 7)

To cover the financial burden of abuse:

- Section 9(1)(c): Payment for all medical expenses.
- Section 9(1)(b): Compensation for loss of earnings.
- Section 9(1)(f): Reasonable maintenance (money for food and daily needs).

Penalties for Disobeying the Court (Section 20)

If a defendant violates any of the orders mentioned in the previous slides:

First Violation

Up to 1 year in prison
and/or
a fine of up to Rs. 200,000.

Repeat Violation

Up to 2 years in prison
and/or
a fine of up to Rs. 500,000.





Immediate Assistance

If the aggrieved person is in immediate danger, she can reach out to:



Women Protection Officer (Section 15):

They have the power to enter a house and rescue a victim (with her consent).

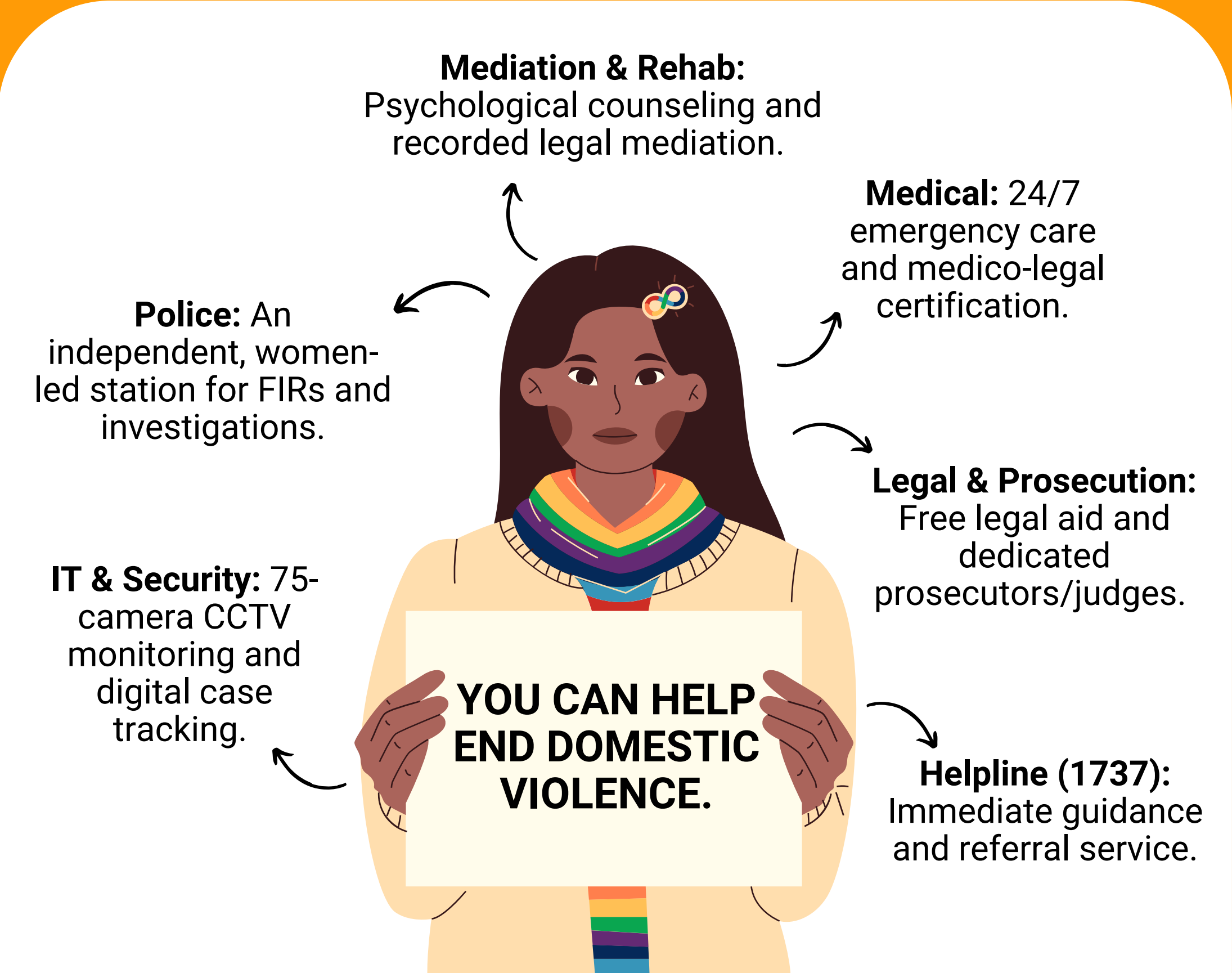


VAWCs (Section 13):

Violence Against Women Centers provide police, medical, and legal help under one roof.

Violence Against Women Centers

The Violence Against Women Center (VAWC) Multan provides a 24/7 "one-roof" facility for survivors, offering the following services:



Federal Shariat Court Judgment on Domestic Abuse Law

Muhammad Ibrahim Khan v. Province of Punjab (2022)

The Federal Shariat Court upheld the Punjab Protection of Women Against Violence Act 2016 and declared that the law is consistent with Islamic injunctions, the Holy Quran, and Sunnah.

Key Findings:

- ✓ Islam does not permit domestic violence
- ✓ Women have a right to dignity, safety, and legal protection
- ✓ Emotional, psychological, economic & cyber abuse are serious harms
- ✓ Protection Orders & Residence Orders are lawful and valid
- ✓ The law strengthens families by preventing abuse and injustice



Challenges in Punjab

S. 19 Penalty for false complaint: imprisonment up to 3 months and/or fine of Rs. 50,000–100,000.



01

Social stigma and family pressure

02

Less reporting

03

Financial dependency

04

Weak implementation

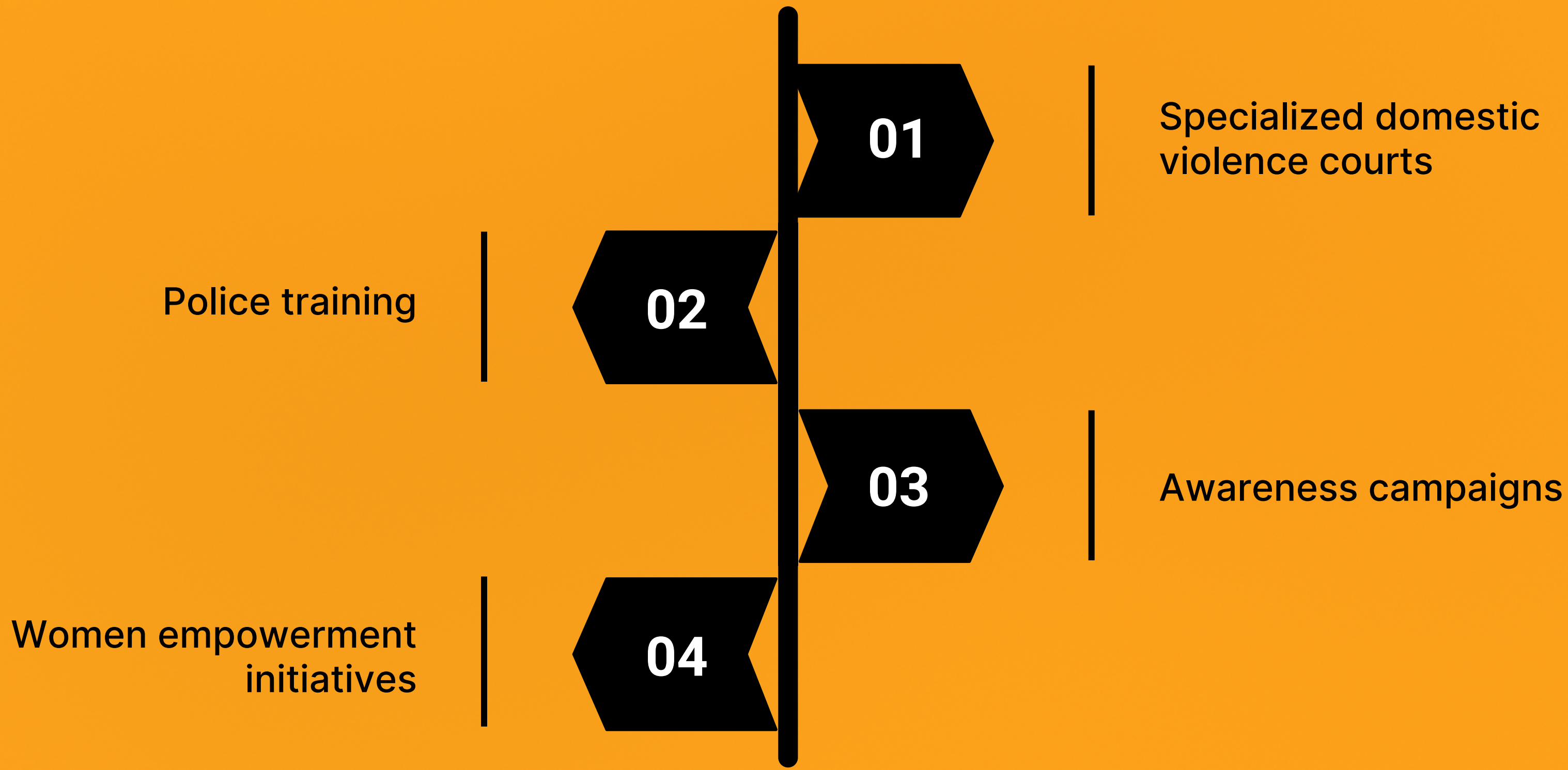
05

Lack of awareness and shelters

06

No Special punishment is available under the law for Domestic abuse as a distinct offense

Recommendations



***“Justice Must Enter The Homes Where
Violence Hides”***