

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



Safety & Justice

# What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence is a human rights violation. It can take many forms, beyond physical violence. Examples include:

1

## **Physical violence:**

Hitting, kicking, slapping, pushing or choking (with or without injury).

2

## **Sexual violence:**

Rape (including marital rape or by a relative), indecent assault or other unwanted sexual acts.

3

## **Emotional/psychological violence:**

Controlling behaviour, threats, verbal abuse, humiliation, stalking, breaking things, or isolation from family and friends.

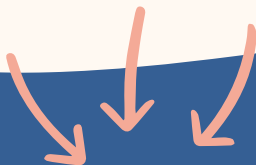
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## **Economic violence:**

Withholding money, basic needs, or access to work or school.

## Who is affected?

Domestic violence can affect anyone. However, it is often committed against women, children, and LGBTQI+ people.



## Who can be a perpetrator?

- A current or former husband, wife, boyfriend, or girlfriend.
- A parent or family member.

# What are the impacts?

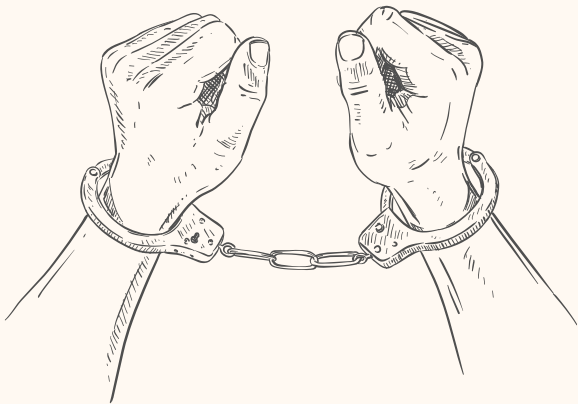
Domestic violence can cause immediate and long-term physical and emotional harm. Even if children are not directly abused, violence around them can impact their development, mental health and studies.

**No one deserves to be  
treated this way.**

# Is domestic violence illegal?

Yes, certain acts of domestic violence **are illegal** in Cambodia.

The Criminal Code, Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims and Civil Code offer protections.



## Perpetrators can be imprisoned for:

Offence	Prison Sentence	Criminal Code
Violence committed by a spouse or partner	<b>2-5 years</b>	Article 222
Intentional acts of violence	<b>1-3 years</b>	Article 217
Rape or attempted rape	<b>5-10 years</b>	Article 239
Threats	<b>1-6 months</b>	Article 231
Death threats	<b>6 months to 2 years</b>	Article 233
Murder or attempted murder	<b>10-15 years</b>	Article 199

**Other charges and fines** may also be applicable. In some cases, aggravating circumstances may lead to longer prison sentences.

# What are my rights?



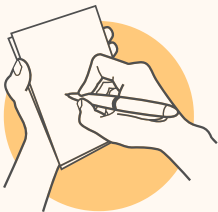
- Right to live **free from violence**
- Right to **file a complaint** to authorities
- Right to **request compensation** through the courts
- Right to **request divorce, child custody, alimony, and division of property** through the courts



- Right to **have a lawyer**. You can request a lawyer from an NGO, other legal aid service or hire a private lawyer.
- Right to **request a private trial** hearing
- Right to **request a protection order** or administrative decision. It is also useful to plan other ways to enhance your safety, such as where you could go or who could help in an emergency.



# How can I seek justice?



You can file a complaint with:

**1** **Police in the area where the crime happened**  
(No official payments are required)

**2** **The provincial or Phnom Penh court,**  
directly with the prosecutor

**3** A prosecutor at an **appeal court**, if the prosecutor at the lower court ended the case



**Evidence can support your case.** If it is safe, record details about when and where the abuse happened, who witnessed it, photos of injuries or property damage, medical reports or receipts, relevant clothing, or chat messages.

# What should the police do?



## Police should:



**Receive and act on your complaint.**

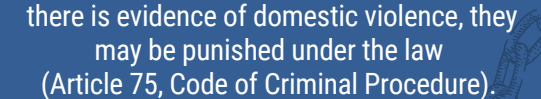
Domestic violence is a serious crime, not a family matter.

**Intervene immediately to stop the violence.** After receiving a complaint, police may investigate or forward the information to the prosecutor.

**Help connect you with services** and separate the perpetrator from you when needed.

## Police can be held accountable if they fail to act.

If the police do not send the case to court when there is evidence of domestic violence, they may be punished under the law (Article 75, Code of Criminal Procedure).



**Domestic violence is  
never your fault.  
You should never be  
blamed for it.**



If authorities are not satisfactorily acting on your complaint, **you can request advice** from an NGO or other relevant authorities.

## Contact

The Cambodian League for the Promotion & Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO):  
**012 536 300 or 015 553 855**

For more information and resources, visit the **Safety & Justice** website  
[www.licadho-cambodia.org/safety-and-justice](http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/safety-and-justice)

