

Our Mission

Lawyers against Abuse (LvA) is a South African non-profit organisation that provides free, professional, and effective legal services and psycho-social support to victims of gender-based violence (GBV).



Our Approach

LvA's community-based model was built on the premise that to create change in the justice system's approach to GBV, one must impact attitudes and behaviours of state actors who most frequently engage with victims.

We believe this can most effectively be achieved through dedicated and strategic work in one geographic area. By focusing in a single community, LvA ensures repeated contact with relevant state actors. In doing so, we hope to create change both at a systemic level as well as for individual victims.

**Securing justice.
Empowering survivors.
Motivating change.**

Donate

Bank Transfer (EFT) Details

Account Name:
Legal Centre for Gender Based
Violence Association

Bank:
First National Bank

Account Number:
62333686345

Branch Code:
200607

Branch Name:
4 Merchant Place

Swift Code:
FIRNZAJJ

*LvA is a registered Public Benefit
Organisation (PBO #930037235)
& Non-Profit Organisation
(NPO #159-504) in South Africa*

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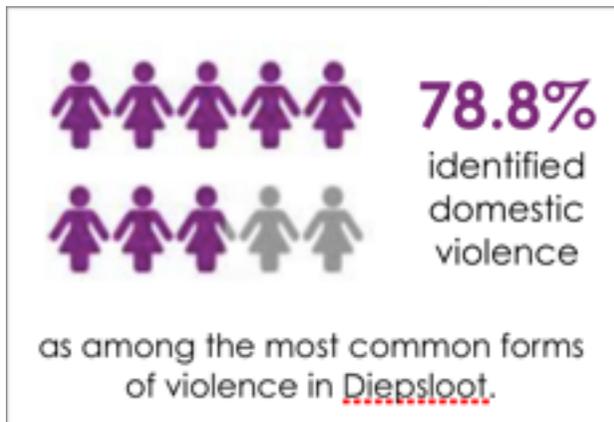


Our Context

LvA is based in Diepsloot, an informal settlement north of Johannesburg, with an estimated population of over 500,000 people. Rates of GBV are staggeringly high in Diepsloot, yet LvA is the only organisation of its kind in the community.

Current challenges to working in Diepsloot include:

- There is **no specialised police unit** (FCS Unit) to handle rape and sexual assault cases, requiring such cases to be investigated by the nearest FCS Unit 20 km away.
- There is **no court in Diepsloot**, requiring victims to travel over 20 km to apply for protection orders or attend criminal hearings. Often this taxi fare alone can be a barrier to justice.
- There are **no clinics or hospitals that can perform a rape kit**, so victims are taken to hospitals more than 35 km away for the collection of crucial forensic evidence.



Our Work

Direct Legal Services

LvA provides legal assistance in two key areas: 1) domestic violence, and 2) criminal cases of rape, sexual assault, and domestic violence assault.

Psycho-Social Support

LvA helps clients recover from the trauma of abuse through individual and group therapy and provides referrals to shelters or other psycho-social services.

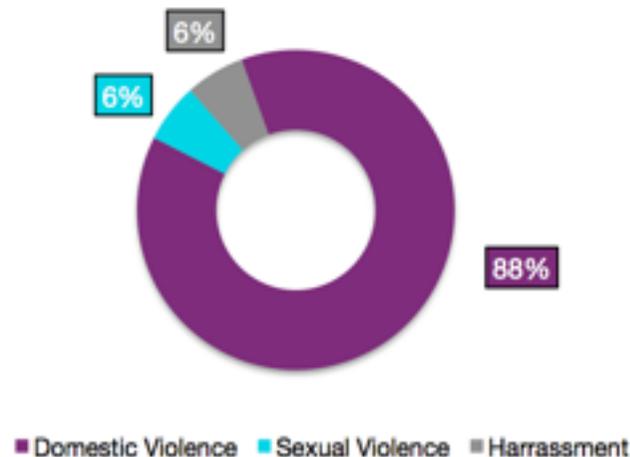
State Actor Engagement

LvA engages with state actors at every level of the justice system to ensure the law is correctly applied and victims are treated with dignity.

Community Engagement

LvA conducts workshops to educate and empower local women, teachers, and learners to catalyze social change around GBV.

Our Cases



Our Impact



Maria's (not her real name) was assaulted with a brick by her step-father who regularly tried to force her to have sex with him.

She opened a case of assault with the police, but when her step-father was released on bail, she approached LvA for assistance. LvA helped Maria secure a protection order to protect her throughout the trial.

During the criminal case, LvA worked with the investigating officer and public prosecutor to ensure Maria's case was argued effectively. LvA also supported Maria as she bravely testified in court against her step-father.

The four-month trial culminated in Maria's step-father being convicted of "assault with the intent to cause grievous bodily harm." This conviction represents a huge win in a culture where domestic violence is normalized and state actors often fail to respond properly.

Maria is just one of the hundreds of clients LvA has helped seek justice and healing.