

March 23, 2024



# WHITE PAPER

## TELANGANA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STAKEHOLDER SUMMIT 2024 FIRST EDITION



Presented By  
**Invisible Scars Foundation**



Authored by  
**Ekta Viiveck Verma**

Founder: Invisible Scars Foundation

---

# FORGING A SAFER TELANGANA

Collaborative Strategies To Combat Domestic Violence and Abuse

## INTRODUCTION

Invisible Scars Foundation (ISF) successfully organized the first edition of the Telangana Domestic Violence Stakeholders Summit on March 23rd at IIT Hyderabad. This pioneering event brought together professionals, experts and key stakeholders to address the critical issue of domestic violence and abuse in the state.

The full-day summit featured thought-provoking panel discussions that provided a platform for diverse perspectives and engaged discourse on the multifaceted challenges surrounding domestic abuse on the topics of “Setting up DV crisis centres within hospitals in Telangana” and “Increased Involvement of Corporate Social Responsibility in Gender Based Violence Issues”.

A moderated Round Table with domestic violence and abuse experts also facilitated in-depth deliberations and collaborative problem-solving on the issue of rehabilitation of abuse survivors through shelter and skilling, focussing on unique experiences of the stakeholders.

This summit was about breaking that silence and igniting constructive dialogues to drive real change. The insights gathered will undoubtedly pave the way for more informed policies and effective strategies. The outcomes and key recommendations from the expert consultations were meticulously documented in a comprehensive white paper to be submitted to the Telangana Ministry of Women and Child Development.

# Table of Contents

• Introduction	2
• Table of Contents	3
• Context and Background and Objectives of the Summit	4-6
• Challenges Faced by DVA Survivors in Accessing Support Services	7
• Welcome Address by Host: Ekta Viiveck Verma	8
• Chief Guest Address: Shikha Goel, IPS	9
• 1st Panel Discussion - Setting Up DVA Crisis Centres In Hospitals in Telangana	10-11
• 2nd Panel Discussion - Increased Involvement of CSR in GBV Issues	12-13
• Round Table Discussion	14-23
◦ Collective Brainstorming: Rehabilitation of DVA Survivors	14
◦ Participants' Names and Organisations	15-16
◦ Skill Building	17
◦ Shelter Homes/Alternate Shelter	18-19
◦ Designing Collaborative Models	20-21
◦ Misc Suggestion, Success Stories & Best Practices	22-23
• Final Outcomes of the Summit	24-25
• Closing Address by Guest of Honour: Vanitha Datla, VC & MD at Elico Ltd	26
• Conclusion and Call to Action	27
• Acknowledgements	28-29
• About Invisible Scars Foundation	30
• Glimpses of Our Event	31
• Thank You to Our Partners	32

## Glossary of Terms

DVA: Domestic Violence and Abuse

GBV: Gender Based Violence

CSR: Corporate Social Responsibility

RT: Round Table

# Context, Background and Objectives (1/3)

## Context

Domestic violence is a pervasive global issue and a public health crisis, affecting millions across gender, age, and socioeconomic boundaries, with women bearing the most brunt of this human rights violation. The far-reaching impact of this crisis is staggering, with the worldwide cost of violence against women estimated at a staggering \$1.5 trillion in 2016, equivalent to approximately 2% of global GDP. In India, the macro-level consequences are equally alarming, with domestic violence estimated to lower the country's economic output by \$479 million to \$880 million per year.

The reverberating effects of domestic violence extend to children, adults, and entire family units. Children face heightened risks of developing behavioural problems like hostility, anger, anxiety, and mental health issues – a cycle that often persists within families, contributing to a generation struggling with low self-esteem, addiction, and psychological challenges.

The long-term impact on adults is equally devastating, including low self-esteem, suicidal behaviour, self-destructive actions, and addictions. This erodes faith in marriage, adversely affecting children through poor parenting. Domestic violence's corrosive impact gradually undermines the family unit, perpetuating a cycle of trauma across generations.

In Telangana, recent statistics stress a troubling reality, with the state ranking second highest in reported domestic violence cases, reflecting a prevalence rate of 50.4%. This data, sourced from the Women and Men in India 2022 survey conducted by the Union Ministry of Statistics, illuminates the urgent need for concerted action at both state and national levels

# Context, Background and Objectives (2/3)

## Background

The Telangana Domestic Violence Stakeholder Summit, First Edition, held on March 23rd, 2024, took place against the backdrop of a critical and multifaceted societal challenge.

The summit represented a rare collaborative effort, bringing together privately run organizations (both for-profit and non-profit) and existing state systems. Networking among organizations in this field is seriously lacking, and capacity-building and sensitization opportunities are scarce, with professionals often lacking a platform to share their lived experiences of working with survivors.

Glaring systemic gaps exist in primary prevention, early intervention, response, recovery, and rehabilitation. Moreover, the gender-based violence (GBV) space suffers from a severe shortage of funds and funders interested in long-term change.

The TDVSS, First Edition, sought to bridge these divides and catalyse more effective, collaborative, and sustainable approaches to addressing the complex and far-reaching impacts of domestic violence in the state and beyond.

# Context, Background and Objectives (3/3)

## Objectives

### Rationale

Through this DVA summit, we intend to provide an opportunity for professionals with similar backgrounds in GBV and interests to get together, share knowledge, cultivate connections, and decide on future priorities. The systems, structures, cultures, skills, resources, and power that organisations and states require to serve their communities will be developed and strengthened as a result of this conference

### Need

The Telangana Domestic Violence Stakeholder Summit, First Edition, held on March 23rd, 2024, sought to establish an interconnected network of domestic violence and abuse (DVA) stakeholders at the state level, fostering improved collaboration and enhancing the collective capacity of gender-based violence (GBV) and DVA professionals. The summit provided a platform to continuously shape innovative practices and partnership approaches, engage in discussions about prevention and intervention strategies tailored to local culture, and collectively explore new research approaches and tools for the prevention of DVA at the state level.

# Challenges Faced by DVA Survivors in Accessing Support Services

- The actual magnitude of the problem is not well understood due to lack of robust statistics, making it difficult to form a holistic picture
- Lack of awareness, leading to perpetuation of myths
- Apathetic and untrained professionals hinder effective understanding and efforts to address DVA
- Inadequate and poorly maintained shelter options
- Lack of counselling resources, skilling, livelihood avenues, and emergency financial relief for survivors
- Comprehensive policies factoring diverse experiences of victims are lacking
- Under-recognition of male, transgender, elderly, and child survivors impact and numbers

# Welcome Address by Host

## Ekta Viiveck Verma

Ekta Viiveck Verma, founder of the Invisible Scars Foundation and gender-based violence expert, delivered a compelling welcome address at the Telangana Domestic Violence Stakeholders Summit.

She acknowledged domestic violence's pervasive and gender-transcending impact, encompassing physical, psychological, and emotional abuse. Stressing urgency for collective action, she urged attendees to collaborate in combating this pressing societal issue.

Highlighting the need for cross-sector partnerships and community engagement, Ekta presented stark statistics on domestic violence's economic and social costs. Globally, it results in \$1.5 trillion in annual losses. In India, the impact ranges from 4.79 to 8.80 million INR. Moreover, a woman in India is affected every 4.4 minutes, emphasizing the critical need for intervention. She also shared a personal anecdote illustrating the power of community support for domestic violence survivors. Her experience underscored the crucial role of women's networks and community solidarity in providing much-needed assistance.

Through her impassioned address, Ekta called upon attendees to collaborate and take decisive action. She drew attention to domestic violence's staggering human and economic costs, while highlighting the transformative potential of community-driven interventions.



# Address by Chief Guest

## Shikha Goel, IPS. ADGP: Women Safety Wing

Shikha Goel IPS, the Additional Director General of Police (Women Safety Wing) in Hyderabad, delivered an insightful address as the Chief Guest of the summit. She provided a comprehensive understanding of domestic violence, emphasizing its multifaceted nature encompassing psychological, emotional, and physical abuse, requiring a holistic approach.

Addressing the prevalent culture of silence surrounding domestic violence, Shikha shared alarming statistics – approximately 30% of reported crimes under Section 498A are related to crimes against women. She shed light on the challenges faced by law enforcement agencies, stressing the need for specialized training to handle domestic violence cases sensitively and efficiently.

Drawing from her experience at the Women Safety Wing, Shikha shared insights into the initiatives undertaken by her team. They have handled 6000 cases, conducted 20000 counselling sessions, and restored 42 percent of families affected by domestic violence.

In conclusion, Shikha Goel urged stakeholders to work collaboratively towards eradicating domestic violence. She emphasized the importance of sustained efforts from both government agencies and civil society organizations to create a safer and more inclusive society.

# First Panel Discussion (1/2)

## Setting Up DVA Crisis Centres In Hospitals In Telangana

The first panel discussion focused on the establishment of domestic violence and abuse crisis centres within private as well as government hospitals in Telangana

Moderator: Dr. Farzana Khan, Head of Programs at My Choices Foundation

### Panelists

- Dr. Evita Fernandez (Chairperson & Managing Director – Fernandez Foundation)
- Dr. Mamatha Raghuvver (Founder & Director – Tharuni NGO; Chairperson – CWC, Warangal, AP)
- Pearl Choragudi (Head of Counselling – Operation PeaceMaker, My Choices Foundation)
- G. Shailaja (Chairperson – Child Welfare Committee, Hyderabad)

### Discussion Highlights

- Dr. Fernandez highlighted the critical importance of awareness and sensitization in addressing domestic violence. She emphasized the urgent need to prioritize the establishment of crisis centres and highlighted the pivotal role of healthcare professionals in providing support to survivors
- Dr. Raghuvver highlighted the pervasive influence of patriarchy and its profound impact on domestic violence. She stressed the imperative need for healthcare professionals to receive comprehensive training in identifying and addressing domestic violence cases effectively

# First Panel Discussion (2/2)

## Setting Up DVA Crisis Centres In Hospitals In Telangana

- Pearl emphasized the crucial importance of providing psychological support to survivors of domestic violence. She advocated for training healthcare staff in empathetic listening and robust referral systems to ensure comprehensive support for survivors
- Shailaja discussed the distinct needs of young girls in crisis centres, drawing attention to the importance of early intervention in dysfunctional families. She advocated for collaboration between healthcare professionals and community leaders to prevent domestic violence.

The panelists discussed key aspects of establishing crisis centres, including raising awareness, training healthcare professionals, providing psychological support for survivors, and addressing the specific needs of young girls. They emphasized the fundamental importance of collaboration between healthcare professionals, community leaders, and NGOs to prevent and effectively address domestic violence and abuse

### Summary.

1. Awareness and Sensitization: Prioritize awareness and sensitization to address root causes of domestic violence.
2. Training for Healthcare Professionals: Provide training for healthcare staff to identify and support domestic violence survivors effectively.
3. Psychological Support for Survivors: Ensure psychological support for survivors through empathetic listening and referral systems
4. Specific Needs for Young Girls: Address specific sexual and reproductive health needs of young girls through crisis centres, focusing on early interventions and community collaboration.

# Second Panel Discussion (1/2)

## Increased Involvement of CSR in GBV Issues

The second panel discussion focused on the increased involvement of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in addressing gender-based violence issues

Moderator: Moderated by Kaumudi Nagaraju, Founder & CEO of Learning Space Foundation

### Panelists

- Kamal Nayak Founder – Good Universe; Head of CSR at ESG, DE&I at SAGE IT
- Viiveck Verma Corporate & Social Impact Leader; Founder – Upsurge Global
- Geeta Goti Executive Director of CSR – ProArch; Managing Trustee – WISHES Foundation
- Satyavati Kondaveeti Founder – Bhumika Women's Collective; Editor – Bhumika Feminist Magazine

### Discussion Highlights

- Kamal emphasized the impact of diversity and inclusion measures in impeding gender-based violence within workplace settings. He stressed the necessity for broader leadership awareness and involvement, extending beyond corporate social responsibility roles, to instigate impactful transformations
- Viiveck delved into the hurdles that corporations encounter when backing domestic violence initiatives, stressing the importance of reshaping organizational culture to prioritize employee well-being over mere compliance
- Geeta highlighted the need for corporate metrics to address the impact of gender-based violence initiatives. She advocated for crisis centres within hospitals and emphasized the importance of structural support from corporates
- Satyavatiji emphasized the importance of corporate funding for domestic violence initiatives and highlighted the need for gender-sensitive policies in workplaces

## Second Panel Discussion (2/2)

### Increased Involvement of CSR in GBV Issues

The panelists discussed strategies to enhance corporate involvement in addressing gender-based violence. This included promoting diversity and inclusion policies, shifting organizational cultures, establishing impact metrics, and providing funding for domestic violence initiatives. They emphasized the need for strong leadership engagement, structural support from corporates, and collaboration with social organizations to drive meaningful change and champion the rights of women and marginalized genders

#### Summary.

- Diversity and Inclusion Policies: Implement diversity and inclusion policies to prevent gender-based violence in workplaces.
- Organizational Culture Shifts: Shift organizational culture to prioritize employee well-being over compliance.
- Metrics for Impact Assessment: Develop metrics to assess the impact of gender-based violence initiatives in corporates
- Funding for Domestic Violence Initiatives: Provide corporate funding for domestic violence initiatives, including crisis centres within hospitals

# Round Table Discussion (1/10)

## Collaborative Brainstorming On The Issue Of Rehabilitation Of Abuse Survivors

### Overview of the Round Table Session

The round table discussion on collaborative problem-solving on the issue of rehabilitation of domestic violence and abuse survivors was divided into four comprehensive areas:

- Skill Building
- Alternate Shelter/ Shelter Homes
- Collaborative Efforts
- Miscellaneous Suggestions, Success Stories and Best Practices

The session was moderated by Viiveck Verma, the Founder of Upsurge Global and Director of Invisible Scars Foundation, with Vanitha Datla, the Vice President of ELICO Ltd., serving as the Guest of Honour. The goal was to bring together stakeholders from various backgrounds to brainstorm effective strategies to support survivors of domestic violence.

The session sought to encourage collaboration, innovation, and actionable recommendations that could be adopted by the government and different organizations working in this field

# Round Table Discussion (2/10)

## Participants Names and Organisations (1/2)

### Participants of the Round Table Session

The round table included participants from various professionals who contributed in detail to the summit. They are listed below

1	Dr. Vijay Rukmini Rao	Gramya Resource Centre for Women
2	Kanakadurga Kalidindi	Ex-Bharosa Centre Head
3	M.A. Shakeel	High Court Lawyer
4	Rubina Nafees	SAFA
5	Pearl Choragudi	My Choices Foundation
6	Farzana Khan	My Choices Foundation
7	Amrita Grace	My Choices Foundation
8	Shravya Mandadi	WE and SHE Foundation
9	Satyavati Kondaveeti	Bhumika Women's Collective
10	Ekta Viiveck Verma	Organiser, Invisible Scars Foundation
11	G. Anitha Reddy	Sakhi Centre
12	Renuka	Sakhi Centre
13	Manjula	Sakhi Centre
14	Renuka	Sakhi Centre
15	P. Prathima	Sakhi Centre
16	Kalpana	Sakhi Centre

# Round Table Discussion (3/10)

## Participants Names and Organisations (2/2)

17	Ch. Hemlatha	Sakhi Centre
18	D. Swapna	Sakhi Centre
19	G. Daniel Kumar	Public Prosecutor
20	Geeta Goti	CSR Head, ProArch
21	Kaumudi Nagaraju	Learning Space Foundation
22	P. Varalakshmi	Sayodhya Home for Women in Need
23	Devaki	Shaheen Women's Resource & Welfare Assn
24	Anusha Vadlamudi	CDEW, Women Safety Wing, TS Police
25	M. Sudha Rani	CDEW - WSW
26	A. Pooja	CDEW - WSW
27	Pulipati Jyothi	CDEW-WSW
28	K. Soujayana	Aman Vedika
29	Archana Brian	Individual (Ex-My Choices Foundation)
30	Debdutta Saha	DV Survivor
31	Dr. Anjali Agarwal	Medical Professional



# Round Table Discussion (4/10)

## Skill Building

### Introduction

Comprehensive support for domestic violence survivors must address not just their practical needs, but also their mental and emotional well-being. A crucial aspect is providing resilience-focused training to aid survivors in building the inner strength needed to overcome trauma. Equally important is ensuring that skill development opportunities are personalized to align with each survivor's unique interests and goals. To create lasting impact, it is essential to develop sustainable and scalable training programs that can empower survivors with in-demand skills and set them up for long-term success and independence

### Suggestions

1. Small and/or home-based businesses
2. Tailoring, design
3. Entrepreneurship programs
4. Culinary skills
5. Digital literacy skills
6. Eco-friendly crafting skills
7. Hospitality industry
8. Online employment, freelancing
9. Women in mobility

# Round Table Discussion (5/10)

## Shelter Homes/Alternate Shelter (1/2)

### Introduction

Leaving an abusive household is a monumental challenge for domestic violence survivors. Abusers often retain control over the survivor's possessions, leaving them with few resources to start over. Even after mustering the courage to leave, survivors face daunting practical obstacles – finding a place to go, transportation, and affording it, especially in emergencies.

The severe lack of accessible, well-equipped shelter homes across India further compounds the problem. Many survivors are unaware of the limited options available or unsure of how to access them. Even when they locate a shelter, they may be turned away due to bureaucratic hurdles, lack of documentation, or inadequate staff training.

The scarcity of public infrastructure equipped to handle domestic violence forces many survivors into destitution. Systemic gaps, from information deficits to victim-blaming attitudes, stall survivors' attempts to escape abuse and rebuild their lives. Urgent, holistic reforms are needed to strengthen the shelter system and empower survivors towards safety and independence.

There is an urgent need to explore alternate shelter options beyond government-run facilities. This includes expanding access to hostels, paying guest accommodations, government housing quarters, and a wider network of shelter homes catering to survivors from diverse economic backgrounds. Crucially, these expanded shelter options must be equipped to accommodate women with their children, providing comprehensive support during their transition.

# Round Table Discussion (6/10)

## Shelter Homes/Alternate Shelter (2/2)

### Suggestions

1. Promote awareness about available shelters, so survivors know where to get help
2. Provide temporary accommodation in girls' hostels or PGs, maintained with private or community funding
3. Utilize orphanages as shelters to offer survivors temporary refuge, care, and support
4. Implement the empty apartment housing model to provide survivors safe, private, and secure spaces in apartment complexes
5. Temporarily allocate government housing to survivors for stable and subsidized accommodation during crises
6. Utilize community halls as temporary shelters to offer survivors a safe space with basic amenities and support services
7. Provide shelter in residential government schools to offer survivors a safe and supportive environment
8. Incorporate shelter projects in corporate social responsibility (CSR) to support survivors of domestic violence
9. Use industrial spaces as discreet, safe shelters for survivors, supported by corporate partnerships and community engagement

# Round Table Discussion (7/10)

## Designing Collaborative Models (1/2)

### Introduction

The response to domestic violence appears to be fragmented, with a lack of coordinated efforts among the various stakeholders responsible for providing support and resources to survivors. Government agencies, NGOs, community groups, and other key players often work in silos, leading to gaps, inconsistencies, and inefficiencies in service delivery.

This lack of collaboration stems from factors like limited funding, competing priorities, differences in organizational missions and approaches, and an overall systemic failure to recognize domestic violence as a complex, multifaceted issue requiring a holistic, cross-sector solution.

Without strong partnerships and aligned strategies among all the stakeholders, survivors continue to face significant barriers in accessing the comprehensive support they need to escape abuse, heal, and rebuild their lives. Fostering genuine collaboration and coordination among domestic violence resource providers is crucial to creating a more seamless, survivor-centric system of care and support.

# Round Table Discussion (8/10)

## Designing Collaborative Models (2/2)

### Suggestions

- Engage healthcare workers in supporting survivors
- Involve community panchayats in survivor support for grassroots empowerment and collective action
- Involve schools in childhood development programs and normalize discussions on domestic violence from birth to promote awareness, prevention, and early intervention
- Provide training for hospital staff on handling domestic violence cases sensitively and effectively across functions
- Facilitate collaboration and training among NGOs to strengthen service delivery, funded by CSRs
- Collaborate with frontline workers such as Anganwadi and Asha workers for community outreach and support
- Engage more legal professionals to spread awareness about legal aid and accessing public prosecutors for survivors' access to legal support and representation
- Pool resources for collective fundraising efforts among NGOs to scale up impact
- Create country wide PSA campaigns that run for a minimum of 5 years, in major regional languages to create awareness

# Round Table Discussion (9/10)

## Miscellaneous Suggestions, Success Stories & Best Practices (1/2)

During the summit, compelling success stories and best practices were shared, showcasing innovative approaches to supporting survivors and preventing domestic violence. Case studies and personal testimonials highlighted the effectiveness of diverse interventions and programs in empowering survivors and fostering safer communities. These success stories served as inspiration and motivation for the stakeholders, demonstrating the positive impact that can be achieved through collaborative efforts and evidence-based strategies in addressing this critical issue. In addition to the success stories, the summit also featured discussions on cutting-edge approaches, emphasizing the need to adapt interventions to meet the varied needs of survivors. From community-based initiatives to technological solutions, these innovative approaches showcased the creativity and resilience required to tackle the challenges posed by domestic violence. By highlighting these best practices, the summit underscored the importance of continuous learning and innovation in the field of domestic violence prevention and response

# Round Table Discussion (10/10)

## Miscellaneous Suggestions, Success Stories & Best Practices (2/2)

The roundtable discussions highlighted the critical importance of raising awareness through impactful campaigns and dialogues for preventing domestic violence and supporting survivors. Equally critical was the emphasis on empowering survivors to make informed decisions, promoting their autonomy and resilience as they rebuilt their lives.

Providing education and rehabilitation programs for abusers was recognized as a key strategy to foster accountability and healthier relationships. The participants also underscored the value of financial empowerment in reducing survivors' vulnerability and enabling them to break free from coercion. Cultivating dignity, empathy, and reducing stigma were identified as vital for creating supportive environments that encourage survivors to seek help without fear of judgment. The discussions stressed the importance of sensitizing influential individuals, educating youth about respect and equality, and offering girls career opportunities regardless of marriage - all of which were seen as holistic strategies to tackle domestic violence and foster lasting change.

# Final Outcomes Of The Summit (1/2)

- Joint Working Group Creation
  - Invisible Scars Foundation will lead the effort to create and manage a joint working group of domestic violence professionals across Telangana state. This group will bring together experts and practitioners from various backgrounds to collaborate on addressing domestic violence within the Telangana region
- Joint Proposals To Corporate Social Responsibility Funders
  - The joint working group will explore developing joint proposals to tap into corporate social responsibility (CSR) funding. The focus will be on creating specific projects and initiatives that align with the CSR funding requirements of companies, in order to secure the necessary resources to support the group's domestic violence prevention and response efforts
- Online Listing Of Domestic Violence Resources
  - The joint working group will work with the government to ensure creation and maintenance of an comprehensive online listing of all available resources and agencies addressing domestic violence in Telangana
- Skill Building And Vocational Training
  - The joint working group will also act as a central coordinating body to forge partnerships with local vocational training institutes and NGOs across Telangana to develop and deliver customized skill-building programs for survivors



# Final Outcomes Of The Summit (2/2)

- Alternate Shelter/ Shelter Homes
  - The joint working group will jointly conduct feasibility studies specific to the Telangana context to assess the need and allocate appropriate resources for the establishment of temporary housing solutions for survivors in the state
- Targeted Awareness Campaigns
  - The joint working group will support the Ministry of Women and Child Development create targeted awareness campaigns tailored to the cultural and linguistic diversity of Telangana, leveraging local media channels and community platforms
- Independent Monitoring Agency
  - The government should appoint an independent agency to regularly track and monitor the utilization of all domestic violence resources and services in Telangana. This tracking will provide data on challenges and allow the ecosystem to improve utilization of support systems. This agency will also partner with the joint working group to organize regular state-level inter-agency meetings to coordinate efforts and monitor the implementation of collaborative support models

## Conclusion and Call to Action

As we work to address the outcomes and recommendations from the round table discussions, it is vital that these efforts are meticulously tailored to the unique context and needs of Telangana. Concerted action from all stakeholders, especially the Telangana government, will be essential in translating these recommendations into tangible initiatives for the welfare and prosperity of the state's citizens.

The government of Telangana is encouraged to take proactive measures in implementing the key recommendations that emerged from the round table process. Through collaborative endeavours and targeted interventions across sectors, we can aim to create a more equitable and prosperous society. By working together, we can strive to positively impact the lives of the people and contribute to their overall well-being

# Closing Address by Guest of Honour Vanitha Datla, VC & MD at Elico Ltd

During her address, Vanitha Datla emphasized the crucial role that corporations must play in combating domestic violence and abuse, with a particular focus on working women who often face these issues. She cited examples of employed women who endure abuse but remain silent due to a lack of awareness about available resources and support systems.

She reiterated the necessity for companies to allocate funds from their corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives towards organizations and programs that provide comprehensive assistance to survivors of domestic violence. She stressed that one of the most significant hurdles survivors face when attempting to leave abusive situations is a lack of economic resources and financial independence.

Vanitha garu emphasised that corporations, with their vast resources and influence, have the potential to make a profound impact in this space by not only raising awareness but also by providing tangible support to existing organisations in this space.

She pledged her unwavering commitment to supporting the stakeholders present at the summit, promising to lend her assistance in whatever capacity possible to further their efforts in addressing domestic violence.

Vanitha garu's call to action highlighted the need for a multi-faceted approach, involving both the private and public sectors, to tackle this pervasive societal issue effectively.

# Acknowledgements (1/2)

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the individuals and organizations whose support and contributions were instrumental in making the Telangana Domestic Violence Stakeholders Summit, 1st Edition, a resounding success.

## Chief Guest and Guest of Honour

We express our sincere appreciation to Shikha Goel IPS, ADGP Women Safety Wing of Hyderabad, for gracing the event with her presence and delivering an insightful address. Special thanks also to Vanitha Datla, Vice President of ELICO Ltd., for being present as the guest of honour.

- Panelists and Moderators of Panel Discussions: We express our sincere appreciation to the esteemed panelists and moderators for their invaluable contributions to the Telangana Domestic Violence Stakeholders Summit. The first panel, led by Farzana Khan, featured Dr. Evita Fernandez, Dr. Mamatha Raghuvver, Pearl Choragudi, and G. Shailaja, who provided insightful perspectives on establishing domestic violence crisis centres in Telangana hospitals. In the second panel, moderated by Kaumudi Nagaraju, Kamal Nayak, Viiveck Verma, Geeta Goti, and Satyavati Kondaveeti shared valuable insights on enhancing corporate social responsibility to combat gender-based violence.
- Participants of the Round Table Discussion: Our sincere gratitude to all the participants of the moderated round table discussion which saw the participation of Dr. Vijay Rukmini Rao, Kanakadurga Kalidindi, M.A. Shakeel, Mrudula Vemulapati, Rubina Nafees, Pearl Choragudi, Shravya Mandadi, G. Anitha Reddy, Renuka, Salomi, Manjula, Renuka, P. Prathima, CH. Lavanya Devi, Kalpana, Ch. Hemaltha, D. Swapna, Devaki, Farzana Khan, G. Daniel Kumar, Geeta Goti, Kaumudi Nagaraju, Anusha Vadlamudi, M. Sudha Rani, Rubina Nafees, Satyavati Kondaveeti, P. Varalakshmi, A. Pooja, K. Soujayana, Pulipati Jyothi, Shailaja Gondlyala, Archana Brian, Dr. Anjali Agarwal, Amrita Grace, and Ekta Viiveck Verma.

# Acknowledgements (2/2)

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the individuals and organizations whose support and contributions were instrumental in making the Telangana Domestic Violence Stakeholders Summit, 1st Edition, a resounding success.

- Invisible Scars Foundation Team Members:
  - Dr. Rithvik Ryaka for help towards note taking for the white paper
  - Dr. Soma Sri Harsha for his help with badge design and summit logistics
  - Manal Doshi for her help with summit logistics
  - Viiveck Verma (Director - Invisible Scars Foundation), who is the backbone of the organisation, for overall guidance and structure to the summit and its outcomes
- Our Partners
  - IIIT, Hyderabad and Prof. Ramesh Loganathan for venue sponsorship at IIIT, Hyderabad
  - Kaumudi Nagaraju of Learning Space Foundation for cash sponsorship
  - Geeta Goti of Wishes Foundation for cash sponsorship
  - Goonj for the customised attendee gift bags
  - Sahaja Aharam for organic snack packets for gift bags
  - Vikram Muday of Moksh events for backdrop and standees
  - Siddhartha Jain of Sua Gifts for mementoes for chief guest, guest of honour and panelists

# About Invisible Scars Foundation (ISF)

Invisible Scars Foundation was founded in 2016 by Ekta Viiveck Verma, a specialist, consultant, and trainer on Gender-Based Violence, as an initiative and registered as a section 8 not for profit in January 2023.

ISF envisions a world where GBV survivors are empowered with the tools and support they need to reclaim their dignity, resilience, and self-worth. Our mission is to help 50000 GBV survivors reclaim their dignity over the course of the next 5 years through using technology as an enabler of uniform, compassionate, inclusive, and networked help and not limited by geographic boundaries.

The organization aims to shift the narrative surrounding DVA from a gendered issue to recognizing it as a behavioural problem, advocating for policy-level changes in DVA redressal. The foundation assists survivors by guiding them to various resources such as police, legal aid, mental health services, and shelters. It also provides financial assistance for essential needs like food, rent, and medical/legal help.

Notably, ISF operates with a gender-neutral approach to ensure inclusivity for survivors of all genders and ages. Invisible Scars Foundation envisions a world where gender-based violence survivors reclaim their dignity, resilience, and self-worth. In 2024, ISF was signed on by Urban Company as their implementation partner across 14 cities they work in, for the Workplace Domestic Violence Policy.

With an ambitious goal to help 6 lakh GBV survivors over the next five years, the foundation aims to achieve this through a uniform, compassionate, inclusive, and networked platform, transcending geographic boundaries. With a wide reach across PAN India and NRI survivors, ISF has directly assisted 3700+ survivors directly and sensitized over 40,000 individuals about domestic violence and abuse

# Glimpses of Our Event



# Thank You To Our Partners

## TELANGANA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STAKEHOLDERS SUMMIT


1<sup>ST</sup> EDITION

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



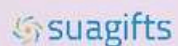
 [in.visiblescars](https://www.instagram.com/in.visiblescars)

 [in.visiblescars](https://www.facebook.com/in.visiblescars)

 [in\\_visiblescars](https://twitter.com/in_visiblescars)

 [Invisible Scars Foundation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/invisible-scars-foundation)

### OUR PROUD PARTNERS





March 23, 2024



# WHITE PAPER

TELANGANA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
STAKEHOLDER SUMMIT 2024  
FIRST EDITION



Presented By  
**Invisible Scars Foundation**



Authored by  
**Ekta Viiveck Verma**

Founder: Invisible Scars Foundation

---