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## Implementation of UNGA Resolution 58/185 entitled In-depth Study On all Forms of Violence against Women

### Study/Research

This Ministry carried out studies to assist towards better understanding the problem and subsequently develop strategies to eliminate domestic violence within families and the society in general.

#### (a) Survey on Domestic Violence

A survey on domestic violence cases carried out in 1998 to determine the factors that led to violence showed that 96% of the victims were women; a majority of victims were not working and had low level of education. In 56% of cases, the victims suffered violence almost daily, implying that violence had been tacitly accepted as a norm. Violence seems the common way of the aggressors to assert their dominance and control over their victims. The exertion of power on women was observed by the fact that the causes of violence were due to the aggressive nature (46%) and the dominant position of the aggressors.

#### (b) Criminological research on Domestic Violence

A criminological research commissioned by the Ministry and funded by UNIFEM was carried out in 2000 on the factors leading to domestic violence so as to identify some benchmarks for policy and programme implementations. The objective of the Research was to cover the following issues:

- Assessing Data Collection methodologies in key agencies, dealing with Domestic Violence
- Examining patterns of Domestic Violence reported to agencies and action taken
- Examining patterns of prosecution, charges against perpetrators, follow up action taken to protect victims and to ensure Protection Orders are adhered to; and
- Assessing the number of crimes/offences related to Domestic Violence

**Statistics**

The statistics are collected and compiled by this Ministry based on reported cases at the Ministry. Statistics for the period 2003, 2004 and January to March 2005 are given below:

	2003		2004		January 2005 - March 2005	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>Total registered</b>	<b>4,418</b>	<b>10,848</b>	<b>4,287</b>	<b>10,555</b>	<b>1,415</b>	<b>3,237</b>
Made up of:						
Follow up cases	1,817	4,337	2,325	4,849	795	1,672
New cases	2,601	6,511	1,962	5,606	620	1,672
Which are due to:						
Accommodation	46	72	7	19	0	9
Alcoholism/drug addiction	82	1,549	27	716	11	150
Alimony	24	146	27	109	12	26
Conflict with in-laws	40	354	50	232	13	81
Conflict with partner	434	2,114	337	1,763	97	446
Damage	9	300	8	50	1	5
Divorce	52	282	36	153	18	48
Extra-marital affairs	69	615	22	64	2	7
Family dispute	19	101	22	64	17	161
Harassment	53	894	60	661	18	165
Illtreatment	53	891	61	640	8	48
Legal problems	24	77	47	235	8	48
Physical assault	66	1,140	143	1,567	24	276
Sexual abuse	30	314	13	144	0	13
Sexual harassment	7	90	3	32	2	7
Threatening assault	39	1,319	21	319	15	150
Threatening behaviour	25	975	15	328	12	118
Verbal abuse	65	1,212	66	806	20	196

Source: Ministry of Women's Rights, Child Development and Family Welfare

**Proposed Study**

It is proposed to carry out another study on Domestic Violence with the following objectives:

- to study and assess the causes of the prevailing situation in Mauritius;

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- to develop appropriate strategies relating to preventive and educational programmes with a view to dealing with the problems of domestic violence.