

Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005

Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 is a major bill passed by Indian Parliament during UPA1 government regime (2005). The law is crucial, as it helps in the protection of the weaker sex – women – from the violence she faces in the place she lives in.

Salient features of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005

- Includes physical and mental ill-treatment.
- Primarily meant for the protection of wife or female live-in partners.
- Law also extends to sisters, widows or mothers.
- Harassment in the form of dowry demands also included in this law.
- Gives women **right to secure housing**.
- Court can also issue **protection orders** that prevent the abuser from harassing the women by acts at her workplace.
- Act proposes appointment of protection officers and NGOs.
- Breach of protection order is a non-bailable offense.

Criticisms of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005

- Abused men not covered; the law is specially for women.
- Violence against women are often perpetrated by women herself – Eg: Mother-in-law/ Daughter-in-law.
- Verbal abuse and mental harassment are subjective terms.

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