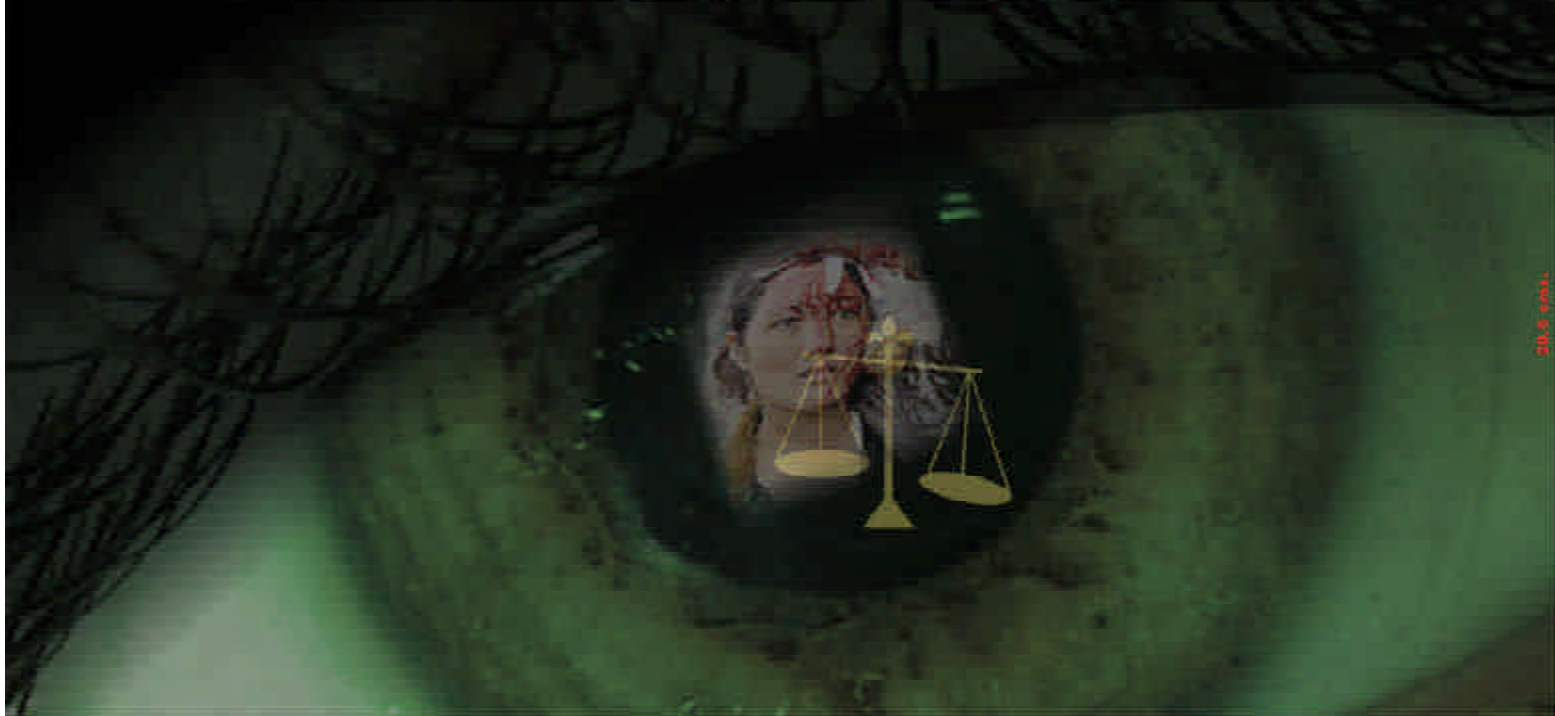# Violence Against Women In Politics

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

GUIDEBOOK

South Asia Partnership
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Violence
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Violence Against Women in Politics
Surveillance System

South Asia Partnership
INTERNATIONAL

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Acknowledgement

The Guidebook on VAWIP Surveillance System emerges as a tool for implementing VAWIP Surveillance System under the VAWIP programme. This is a guidebook for implementing partners, watch groups and member organizations within the SAP System to understand the various levels and processes for proper functioning of the Surveillance System.

The publishing of this Guidebook has been made possible with help of the VAWIP team, at SAP International, who has shown great perseverance and dedication in preparation of this book. I would like to thank Ms. Rajani Tiwari for her contribution and untiring efforts in collection and completion of the VAWIP Surveillance System Guidebook. Her work on the legal section of this book is indeed commendable. I would also like to extend my gratitude to Mr. Upendra Kumar Poudel for his contribution in the Guidebook, to throw light on the issues of women's political participation and violence against women in the region. Without whose years of experience in editing and publishing, this Guidebook would not have been possible. I would also like to acknowledge Ms. Binisha Shrestha Ranjitkar for her perseverance and tireless efforts in revising and finalizing the Guidebook, to bring it to its present shape. I want to thank Ms. Luna Malla and Mr. Anjan Shrestha for their contribution in cover designing, Mr. Nawaraj Puri for his invaluable time and efforts in designing content layout, Mr. Govind Kumar Shrestha and Mr. Bibushan Bista for their support in the publishing of this book.

Lastly, I would like to thank the entire team at SAP International for their continued support to make this endeavor possible.

Dr. Rohit Kumar Nepali
Executive Director
SAP International

Today, when declaration of human rights has been universally accepted, recognition of women's right as human rights is inalienable. Yet, women's rights continue to be abridged by a snail paced compliance with human rights standard and inadequate human rights education and gender sensitization at all levels. Although, most countries in the South Asian Region have had women leaders and this region sets one of the finest examples of women's empowerment, it also represents formidable challenges of poverty, denial and discrimination, impeding the realization of women's fundamental human rights. It has acted as the sore leg encumbering the overall development in the region. Women in South Asia lag behind men in all the indicators of social, economic and political development.

Today, the world is waking up to gender equality not only for basic human rights but also for political rights. The fact that South Asia is slowly but steadily stirring to the practice of positive discrimination for inclusion of women in decision making and in national politics, gives us tremendous hope for the future and puts women's rights including their right to political participation at the cutting edge of global struggle for gender equality.

South Asia Partnership International, a regional network of organizations working at the grassroots in five countries of South Asia, is mandated to work for peace, livelihood, good governance with inclusion of women as the cross cutting theme for all its activities. Violence against Women in Politics (VAWIP) is a program implemented by SAP International with the objective of creating a favorable environment for women's political participation in South Asia, to help expand women's opportunities for participation in politics and reach their full potential. In reality, achieving this would require concrete actions at the grassroots with its direct impact on women's political participation and reducing violence against women in politics. As a part of our effort under this program, a Surveillance System has been developed to monitor, document, communicate, refer and advocate against violence against women in politics. SAP International is pleased to publish this Guidebook on VAWIP Surveillance System, which is perhaps the first of its kind in the South Asian Regional level.

The VAWIP Surveillance System Guidebook is intended to provide basic information on development and implementation of the Surveillance System at regional level for the use of Watch Group Members, SAP Nationals and partners who are the key stakeholders of this system. It is our hope that the Guidebook will be used as a reference in the conceptualization of and in the day-to day practical process of implementing the system and in creating a safer environment for women in politics. It has been structured in a simple way that allows users to easily devise step-by-step actions relevant to their work and has been written in clear and simple language which should be accessible to all.

We believe that implementation of this Guidebook is an important tool of VAWIP Surveillance System which will assist SAP International and its implementing partners in the collective endeavor to promote and protect women in politics.

Dr. Rohit Kumar Nepali
Executive Director
SAP International

C o n t e n t s

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List of Acronyms

1	**CBO**	:	Community Based Organization
2	**CEDAW**	:	Convention on Elimination of All Kinds of Discrimination Against Women
3	**CSOs**	:	Civil Society Organizations
4	**CWG**	:	Community Watch Groups
5	**HR Orgs**	:	Human Rights Organizations
6	**NWG**	:	National Watch Groups
7	**RSS**	:	Regional Surveillance System
8	**RWG**	:	Regional Watch Groups
9	**SAARC**	:	South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation
10	**SAP I**	:	South Asia Partnership International
11	**SAP Ns**	:	SAP Nationals
12	**UN**	:	United Nations
13	**UNDP**	:	United Nations Development Programme
14	**VAWIP**	:	Violence Against Women in Politics

1. Regional Context & Programme Background

Context

The geo-politics of South Asia in the 20th century was shaped by the violence of its creation. The expectations of harmonious coexistence between separate and sovereign entities inhabiting a common geo-economic space was belied by its subsequent reality. Governance and democracy are two aspects, are widely discussed and desired in South Asia today. As matters stand, however, dissatisfaction with both governance and the democratic system prevalent in most countries of South Asia run high among their respective people. Seventy per cent of the people in the study were dissatisfied with the government systems in South Asia[1]. Ironically, even a study conducted in the developed world revealed that people were not happy with their prevailing systems. Although India is the only functioning democracy in South Asia, Indians too were not happy with the democracy in India[2].

The inadequacy of the governance process constitutes a major threat to the development of South Asia. The common causes of this crisis of governance are the decay of political parties and democratic institutions; venality of the ruling elite and their indifference to the common will; resistance to devolution and devolution of powers to the people; unimaginative dealing with minorities; pervasive electoral process; and the nexus between criminals and corrupt bureaucrats, politicians and businessmen. This is a crisis of governance in all the South Asian countries: the difference is not only of scale, but seen in the resulting deterioration of the administrative system in the States and human development in the region.

The world is now at what is termed as the post-post cold war era. The fault lines, alliances and coalitions of this period are yet to evolve, even though its outlines are beginning to emerge. The present is a state of transition, characterized by tension, violence and the potential of violent conflict. The post-cold war era did open up opportunities of peace and cooperation internationally but its impact was muted in South Asia. The last decade of the Century saw a continuation and even an intensification of this violence, especially in the South Asian Region. At the same time, South Asia may now be emerging from the periphery to the centre of global strategic concern, where it will not be free from direct and indirect influences from outside. In

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[1] UNDP study, 2002
[2] Conclusions from a study conducted by Arundhati Roy, a renowned writer and activist

these challenging times, there are also opportunities of moving towards peace and stability. And in this context UN Security Council passed Resolution 1325 which was the first resolution ever passed by the Security Council that specifically addresses the impact of war on women, and women's contributions to conflict resolution and sustainable peace.

The South Asian countries are at present times focused on resolving conflict, peace making and nation building and economic development. While economic development is dependent on political stability, most South Asian Countries are yet to reach a state of political stability. Civil wars and interstate conflict, corruption and violence have disfigured the face of politics in South Asia. However all is not lost, the post conflict and transition phase can give a new lease of life to politics in this region, especially taking examples of other post conflict countries like Rwanda, Burundi, Mozambique, South Africa and Timor Leste, which have greater female political participation than more highly developed countries such as the United States, France and Italy. Post conflict situation provides a unique opportunity to introduce a more inclusive political framework to advance women's participation in politics, governance and decision making.[3]

1.1 South Asian Political System and Women's Political Participation

1.1.1 Women's Political Participation

Since 2003, out of over 180 countries, only 13 are currently headed by women, 14.5% of members of national Parliaments worldwide are women, 7% of the world's total cabinet ministers are women; Women ministers remain concentrated in social areas (14%) compared to legal (9.4%), economic (4.1%), political affairs (3.4%), and the executive (3.9%).

Parliamentary representation of women increased between 1975 and 1987 but women still make up less than four percent of representatives in many countries in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific, with notable exceptions. Worldwide, as in developing countries, women's representation in parliament was about 11 percent in 1992. The latest data as a February 2006 so a positive trend of increasing women's representation in the parliament (worldwide) at 17 percent. Yet, quotas of women representatives, where they exist, are often not met. Where women's bureau or ministries of women's affairs have been established, they often have second-class status, limited resources and wield little influence over mainstream policy-making. Although women are often prominent in community-based and activist groups, they are generally excluded from policy-making processes.

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[3] Whittington Sherrill, Gender, Governance and Peace building, Case Studies from Timor Leste and the Solomon Islands

In 1893, New Zealand became the first nation to grant women full voting rights. Other countries to grant voting rights to women relatively early were: Finland (1906), Albania (1920), Mongolia (1924), Ecuador (1929), Turkey (1930), Sri Lanka (1931). In many countries, women have only recently been granted the right to vote. In 11 countries across Africa, Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific, equal suffrage was only granted between 1976 and 1991. Certain factors may limit women's ability to exercise their right to vote, although sex disaggregated figures on the electorate are rarely available. Women's higher illiteracy rate constrains political awareness and effective choice. In three Asian, five African and two Latin American countries (as well as four developed countries), men are able to vote by proxy for female members of their families. Abuse of this provision, however, has only been informally recorded.

Democratization does not guarantee improved representation of women. Trends towards democratization and decentralization, may be presenting opportunities for greater involvement of women in formal politics, but this is by no means automatic. Institutional barriers, socio-cultural factors and lack of time may constrain women's participation.

1.1.2 Women's Political Participation in the South Asian Region

The context that defines women's political participation is the endemic nature of patriarchal structures and the resultant gender inequality and gender discrimination in the South Asian region. Gender relations are rooted in the ideology of relationship whereby women are seen as subordinate to men. Women are consistently denied inheritance rights, adequate food, freedom of expression and mobility, participation in community activities and say in personal choices and preferences (from education, to spouse, number of children, to profession, etc.) They are thus denied a meaningful role in decision-making, and are not in a position to access educational and health care facilities, or political and financial institutions nor own assets and resources. Women's place in the family hierarchy and relationships within the home combine with the socially prescribed gendered division of roles, to determine their levels of exclusion in both the private (household) and public spheres. Class, caste, religion, ethnicity and location are additional factors that mediate gendered social relations across South Asia in varying degrees.

This is manifest in the gender gap in education, economic activity, employment and subordination of women. Female labour force participation in South Asia between 1995 and 2001 was 33.5 percent as compared to 42 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa and 44.5 percent in East Asia and Pacific. Similarly the gender gap in literacy over the same period in South Asia as a whole is 33 percent. At the individual country level Sri Lanka is exceptional with female literacy at 94 percent.[4] Low level of literacy and employment of South Asian women has hindered women's overall growth and development, which has ultimately dwindled gender balanced development in the region. This is reflected in the almost negligible representation of women in political governance and decision making.

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[4] Khawar Mumtaz, Women's Representation, Effectiveness and Leadership in South Asia, 2005

1.1.3 State of Women's Political Participation in South Asia

Special provisions have been introduced to increase women's political participation in many countries of South Asia, yet the percentage of women in the higher levels of the political power positions has not improved. There are various factors that discouraged women from taking an active part in politics. The main reasons are prevalence of violence, corruption and manipulation. Also social customs, values and attitude that support violence against women (VAW) are entrenched and institutionalized at all levels - home, family, community, society and the State. Many women who have excellent leadership qualities are unwilling to participate in politics because of these factors.

Representation of women at national level ranges between 21.3% in Pakistan to 15.1%in Bangladesh *(In 2004, the number of seats in parliament was raised from 300 to 345, with the addition of 45 reserved seats for women. These reserved seats were filled in September and October 2005, being allocated to political parties in proportion to their share of the national vote received in the 2001 election.).* [5] Representation of women at state/province level ranges from 16.9% in Pakistan, to 3.2% in Sri Lanka; and at the local level, the representation of women in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan is 23.31%, 25.97% (over 40% in some of the states in India) and 30.12% respectively, while the representation in Nepal and Sri Lanka is 8.5 and 1.97% respectively. Representation of women in Nepal's House of Representatives was 5.9% in 1999. In Sri Lanka, women member of parliament constitute only 4.44% of the total number of representatives[6] in 2004 and 5.78% in 2006.[7] Women's average representation in parliaments of South Asian nations was 11.7% as of February 2006. Women's representation in parliament in South Asian countries is still far below the world average of 17%.[8]

Though women constitute half of the population, they are felt to be in minority in three dimensions of inequality; in class/economic status, in social position and in political power, which is purely an injustice. Women's ability to introduce potential plans and take important political decisions has been totally neglected. Both the political parties and women organizations are paying inadequate attention on political education to women and for their mobilization. Politics and decision making have been closely guarded as men's privileged area, with the male dominated party structure and their insensitivity towards importance of women's involvement in political processes. Owing to a small numerical strength in the legislative assembly and the parliament, women are in a disadvantaged position in South Asia. And among the few percentage of women, who are active in politics and have made it to the decision making level, majority of them have come from economically well off families and have joined politics as result of family's involvement in politics.

Socio-economic, cultural and political factors hinder woman to enter into politics in South Asia. Political participation of women is largely interpreted only as voting right of women and right to women's political participation is yet to be fully accepted as women's basic human right.

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[5] Source://http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/world.htm
[6] Reviving Democracy; the Emerging Roles of Women in Decision Making, A study report conducted by SAP-I, 2003
[7] Research Section, [Sri Lanka] Parliament Library [November 2006] Original data given in Sinhala
[8] Source://http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/world.htm

1.2 Women's Political Right as a Part of Human Right

1.2.1 Women's Human Rights

The term Human Rights refer to the inherent, universal rights of human beings regardless of jurisdiction or other factors, such as ethnicity, nationality, or sex.

The idea of human rights descended from the philosophical idea of natural rights; some recognize no difference between the two and regard both as labels for the same thing while others choose to keep the terms separate to eliminate association with some features traditionally associated with natural rights.[9]

As is evident in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, human rights, at least in the post-war period, are conceptualized as based on inherent human dignity, retaining their universal and inalienable character.

The word human right denotes conforming with or conformable to justice, law, or morality that a human deserves from his birth, which are universal in nature and are inalienable by any person, state or somebody else. These rights include right to life, right to food, right to education, right to religion, right to association, right to vote etc. which are primarily provisioned in Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), 1948. UDHR is a major source of human rights and is a persuasive document for all.

Regional organizations, where there is government representation like South Asian Association for Regional Corporation (SAARC), European Union (EU), Organization of African Unity (OAU) etc. are essential to define the regional standard of human rights applicable to the people of their member states. The Constitution of the country guarantees the norms and standard of human rights applicable within the national territory to which the citizens deserve the right to enjoy and right to remedy in case of infringement of those rights.

Traditionally, the terminology "human rights" stands for the right for all; women and men without any age bar. However, women are treated as the second sex all over the world even in the 21st century, in respect to the enjoyment of their human rights. In general, their status remained the same i.e. derogated by household responsibilities. In the mean time women activists realized to wake up for a new dimension called Women's Right to promote women's development and protect women from infringement of their rights with specific strength. The term women's right typically refers to freedoms inherently possessed by women and girls of all ages, which may be institutionalized or ignored and/or illegitimately suppressed by law or custom in a particular society or country. These liberties are grouped together and differentiated from broader notions of human rights, because they often differ from the freedoms inherently possessed by and/or recognized for men and boys, and because activism surrounding this issue claims an inherent historical and traditional bias against the exercise of rights by women.

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[9] Peter Jones, Rights, Palgrave Macmillan, 1994, p. 73

Feminism and most modern sociological theory maintain that the differences between men and women are, at least in part, socially constructed 'differences' (i.e. determined through history by specific human groups), rather than biologically determined, immutable conditions.

Issues commonly associated with notions of women's rights include, though are now limited to:

- Right to association,
- Right to bodily integrity and autonomy (Right related to politics),
- Right to independent voting (Right related to politics),
- Right to hold public office,
- Right to work,
- Right to equal wages,
- Right to own property and hold ownership,
- Right to education,
- Marital rights,
- Parental rights,
- Religious rights,
- The right to serve in the military, and
- The right to enter into legal contracts.

1.2.2 International Instruments: Safeguarding Women's Political Rights

Feminist analyses of human rights reject the mainstream hierarchy that privileges civil and political rights over economic, social and cultural rights. Women's experiences demonstrate that exercising the political right to run for elected office, for example, depends upon access to economic resources, as well as on social support and the cultural endorsement of women in decision making positions. Similarly, the right to freedom from " inhuman, and degrading treatment," cannot be exercised by a woman subjected to domestic violence in the absence of sanctions against perpetrators, effective support services, and the means of economic independence (that is, effective economic and social rights). A key criticism made by women's human rights advocates is that traditional definitions of civil and political rights have focused primarily on threats to human rights that are of most concern to men, that is, violations of rights perpetrated by the State in clashes between the individual and the exercise of state power. Hence, a wide range of violations perpetrated by non-state actors, primarily affecting women, have not been understood as abuses of human rights. Violence against women is one example of an issue affecting women in huge numbers globally, but which only recently was recognized by the United Nations as a violation of human rights — whether it is perpetrated by state or non-state actors.

a. Convention on the Political Right of Women, (CPRW) 1952

Desiring to implement the principle of equality of rights for men and women contained in the Charter of the United Nations, recognizing that everyone has the right to take part in national government directly or indirectly through freely chosen representatives, and has the right to equal access to public service within the country, and desiring to equalize the status of men and women in the enjoyment and exercise of political rights, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and of the UDHR the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, came into the existence in 1952.

The Convention desires to protect and promote the women's political rights. Women's participation in governance and in decision making is essential for overall development of the women. Women shall be entitled to vote in all elections on equal terms with men, without any discrimination[10] and women shall be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies, established by national law, on equal terms with men, without any discrimination.[11] Women shall be entitled to hold public office and to exercise all public functions, established by national law, on equal terms with men, without any discrimination.[12]

b. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948

On December 10, 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the UDHR and proclaimed it as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations. The Declaration combines civil, political, social and economic rights in one standard-setting document. Subsequent human rights treaties reflect the efforts of the international community to give these rights a legal basis at the national and international level. However, the system of treaties that has evolved since 1948 has been defined by a major chasm between those who view narrowly-defined political and civil rights as the "real" human rights and those who argue that economic, social, and cultural rights are more important.

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.[13]

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.[14]

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[10] Article 1 of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, 1952.
[11] Article 2, Ibid.
[12] Article 3 Id.
[13] Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of human Right, 1948
[14] Article 2, Ibid.

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.[15]

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.[16]

Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives. Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.[17]

Rights Relating to Politics and Governance[18]

The right denoting politics and Governance states that,

- Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
- Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country.
- The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

It is also important to underscore that the right to enjoy the civil and political rights enumerated in UN standards and treaties regardless of "race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status" in itself is a pivotal civil right. Proper observance of this right, to non-discrimination in the enjoyment of human rights, demands that action plans to implement women's human rights take into account the diversity of women's lives, experiences and identities across race, geography, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, (dis) ability, and so on.

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[15] Article 18, Ibid
[16] Article 19, Ibid
[17] Article 20(1,2,3,4 and 5), Ibid
[18] Article 21, Id.

At the same time, it must be recognized that women as well as men are subject to "traditional" forms of state-sponsored human rights violations albeit in gender-specific ways. When women are persecuted or tortured because of their political activism, their social status, their race, or their ethnicity or cultural background, the fact that the victims are female is always significant. It affects the mode of persecution and torture, and severely limits the likelihood of recognition and redress for the abuses perpetrated. Sexism, sexual harassment and sexual assault generally play a large role in the suppression and torture of women who are activists, for example. Similarly, women who are victims of rape and sexual abuse, frequently encounter male-bias among law enforcement officials and members of the judiciary that effectively erode and deny their civil right to legal protection on an equal footing with men.

Equally important, however, is the need to address the almost universal failure to actively implement women's right to democratic civic participation and representation. Even where liberal democracies are ostensibly in place, women are grossly under-represented among elected representatives and in decision making bodies, especially at the national and international level. There can be little doubt of the link between women's continued marginalization in economic, social and cultural arenas on the one hand and their under-representation in public life and decision making on the other.

c. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), 1966

Many of the rights guaranteed focus on protecting citizens from the abuse of state power. For example, the ICCPR includes the right not to be subjected to "torture or cruel and inhuman treatment," the right of accused persons to a fair trial and equal treatment before courts, the right to freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of association. The ICCPR also includes the right to democratic civic participation and representation. All rights are guaranteed without distinction as to sex or other category and the equality of men and women is expressly highlighted in a number of areas, including with respect to the equal rights and responsibilities of men and women in marriage.

The Covenant also has two optional protocols. The First Optional Protocol (OP1) provides for an individual complaints procedure for persons whose civil and political rights have been violated and who have exhausted all means of obtaining redress at the national level. As of December 2002, a total of 104 states had ratified or acceded to OP1.

d. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 1976

Noting that the fundamental human rights, the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women to enjoy all economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, determined to implement the principles set forth in the Declaration and, for that purpose, to adopt the measures required for the elimination of such discrimination in all its forms against women, the CEDAW has came into subsistence.

It offers women protection against violations of their civil and political rights. It complements the ICCPR insofar as it elaborates on the nature of women's civil and political rights and calls on governments to take active steps to promote greater equality between men and with regard to public life, legal status and nationality issues.

The term "discrimination against women" shall mean any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.[19]

The Convention makes state party responsible in following subsets.

I. To condemn discrimination against women in all its forms and make liable to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women. To this end, they should undertake: (a) to embody the principle of the equality of men and women in their national constitutions or other appropriate legislation if not yet incorporated therein and to ensure, through law and other appropriate means, the practical realization of this principle; (b) To adopt appropriate legislative and other measures, including sanctions where appropriate, prohibiting all discrimination against women; (c) To establish legal protection of the rights of women on an equal basis with men and to ensure through competent national tribunals and other public institutions the effective protection of women against any act of discrimination; (d) To refrain from engaging in any act or practice of discrimination against women and to ensure that public authorities and institutions shall act in conformity with this obligation; (e) To take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women by any person, organization or enterprise; (f) To take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices which constitute discrimination against women; (g) To repeal all national penal provisions which constitute discrimination against women.[20]

II. To take in all fields, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men.[21]

III. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right: (a) to vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies; (b) to participate in the formulation of government policy

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[19] Article 1of , CEDAW, 1976
[20] Article 2, Ibid.
[21] Article 3, Ibid

and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government and (c) to participate in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country. [22]

IV. To take all appropriate measures to ensure to women, on equal terms with men and without any discrimination, the opportunity to represent their Governments at the international level and to participate in the work of international organizations. [23]

Although many governments in the region have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and a few its optional protocol, their implementation rarely meet national and international legal obligations. Protection of women's rights has been uneven and inadequate. Many countries have vibrant women's movements that have slowly been able to push through reforms or establish support services.

e. UN Security Council Resolution (S/RES/1325), 1325

S/RES/1325 was passed unanimously on 31 October 2000, which was a first resolution ever passed by the Security Council that specifically addresses the impact of war on women, and women's contributions to conflict resolution and sustainable peace.

Bearing in mind the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security; concerning that civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflict; reaffirming the important role of women in prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, and stressing the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision- making; recognizing the urgent need to mainstream a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations the *S/RES/1325 has passed by United Nation.*

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 recommends;

- To the member states to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict. [24]

- To Secretary-General to implement his strategic plan of action (A/49/587) calling for an increase in the participation of women at decision-making levels in conflict resolution and peace processes. [25]

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[22] Article 7, Ibid
[23] Article 8, Ibid
[24] Resolution No. 1, *S/RES/1325*
[25] Resolution No. 2, *Ibid*

- To all actors involved, when negotiating and implementing peace agreements, to adopt a gender perspective, including, inter alia: measures that ensure the protection of and respect for human rights of women and girls, particularly as they relate to the constitution, the electoral system, the police and the judiciary. [26]

Beside these instruments, the Beijing Platform for Action also contains a section on women in power and decision-making, which sets out a range of actions agreed to by governments to tackle gender inequality in public life.

1.2.3 Women's Political Rights in South Asia

Women throughout Asia confront systematic discrimination and abuse, often with little hope of any redress. From deeply entrenched legal and social norms that subordinate women to pervasive and horrific acts of violence, women's rights violations remain one of the most enduring and grave human rights crises in the region. The risks and types of abuse may intersect with a woman's ethnicity, religion, age, class, sexual orientation, and national origin, but the simple fact that she is a woman often subjects her to an unequal status.

Governments across the region have mixed records in protecting women's rights-with some governments, such as Pakistan, routinely flouting their obligations; others, such as Indonesia, failing to back up rhetoric with resources and political will; and still others, such as India, condemning women's rights initiatives to flounder against apathy and incompetence. Despite continuing women's rights violations, some governments, such as Nepal, deserve credit for passing important legal reforms and devoting resources to issues like human trafficking.

Recent decades have witnessed a proliferation of women's rights groups and activism in many countries, new legal reforms, and, in some areas, strides in education, labor force participation, and political participation. Despite these hard-won changes, hundreds of millions of women in Asia still struggle daily against multiple layers of legal, social, economic, and political oppression.

In South Asia, young women are under constant surveillance from their families and societies, and their movements circumscribed in efforts to preserve their "sexual purity" and "honor." Women who are perceived to have infringed these norms may confront abuse from their families, ostracism, and in some cases, criminal prosecution under adultery laws which directly hinder the women's participation in politics.

Increasing women's political power is imperative for raising women's status, preventing human rights violations against women, and more effectively responding when they occur. Some governments, such as Afghanistan and Pakistan, have established quotas for women's political representation. However,

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[26] Resolution No. 8(c), *Ibid*

discrimination and violence against women also disrupt women's political participation. Women remain poorly represented in local and national governments. Across the region, women seeking to participate in public life as activists, journalists, and government officials face barriers including restrictions on their mobility, stereotypes, harassment and even attacks. In Afghanistan, women who run female literacy projects, raise awareness about sexual and domestic violence, or work in the government have received death threats, visits from gunmen, and attacks on their homes and offices.

South Asia faces numerous human rights and development challenges that threaten stability and democracy, while various long-standing ethnic conflicts and insurgencies hamper further progress. Despite these challenges, there have been notable successes. The April-May parliamentary elections in India were the world's largest elections. The results confirmed the ability of the people of India to peacefully change their government. In October, more than eight million Afghans - 40% of them women - voted in Afghanistan's first election. Despite security threats and attacks before the vote, the Afghan people overwhelmingly supported the country's transition to democracy.

According to recent movement of women's political right, it has developed with the two dimensions; right to participate in government and right to vote. Right to vote has now been guaranteed by each and every country in the world, however lots of obstruction may crop up in route of its enjoyment.

1.2.4 Status of Women in Politics in South Asia

I. Political Inheritance Syndrome

The current elections held in this region show many of the women elected to parliament are not first time participants in their family. Many of them are connected to male politicians as spouses, daughters of siblings. This comes as no surprise since South Asian women leaders have often inherited their positions from male relatives.

II. Quota System Vs Right of Proportional Participation

The common view among men and male politicians is that women are unfit for leadership positions. In the plantations, the general view among male members and male supervisors is that women are politically naive; lack leadership qualities; are illiterate; lack initiative and motivation which causes quality maintenance of the government.

In some countries like Nepal, recently the new dimension of right to proportional participation is treated as right to equally participate in the government. Women political groups, women activists, civil society organizations are raising voice of proportional participation as right to equality and Government itself has announced to guarantee this right as women's political right.

III. Women as Vote Banks

Citizenship rights include the right to vote and the right to stand for office. Targeting women as vote bank is the common syndrome in this region. At a political level, suffrage and holding office are part of "inclusive participation" and "citizen responsibility". Women in South Asia play an increasingly important role as voters. This role is acknowledged and recognized by political parties. In Sri Lanka, political parties wielded or used female candidates to catch the female vote or the educated female votes. In the 2001 general elections the United National Party "launched a woman's manifesto for including women in nomination lists at the local government level within five years". That seems same in India as well. For instance, the BJP and Congress targeted women voters because women voter participation is increasing. These parties have started focusing on so-called women's concerns - rice subsidies, micro-finance, women's cooperatives, joint registration of *pattas* (property deeds to husbands/wives), girl children (feticide to minimum marriage age), and other issues impacting women and girls.[27]

IV. Reorganizing of Women in Addressing Gender Concerns Vs. Lower Representation in Politics

The under-representation of women in lower levels of government affects their representation at the national level, since access to higher levels of power is possible only through participation at the local levels. Interestingly, elite women from urban areas are less interested in holding office or standing for elections because they have the necessary social links and contacts with politicians. The rural women are more active at the grassroots levels but are poorly represented. Rural women are dependent on political parties; they are constrained by financial restrictions; sometimes politically unaware; affected by the double-burden of work. Active political participation would mean that women can present the concerns and struggles of their daily lives and attempt to advance women's issues on the agendas of political parties.

V. Legal Rights Don't Translate Automatically into Reality

The National Constitutions and various legal statutes relating to employment, wages, benefits etc., endorse gender equality and non-discrimination on the basis of gender, ethnicity and religion in South Asian Countries. All countries have ratified the CEDAW convention; are party to the Beijing Platform for Action, which provides a framework for legal reform in keeping with 'universal human rights' values. Women Commissions are set up and different policies are introduced to address all areas of gender discrimination - education, health, employment, domestic violence etc.

Legal recognition of women's rights, however, does not mean that women are actually going to enjoy these rights. Political representation is one means for women to translate these legal rights into 'real rights'.

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[27] http//:www.sapcanada.org

1.2.5 Barriers to Women's Representation: Factors of Exclusion

1. Politics is seen as a male domain. There is a lack of interest among political parties to include women as political candidates and even increase the women membership within parties. Women also internalize the idea that politics is for men. The public domain is seen as the male domain.

2. The violent political system and corruption are deterrents to women's participation. The civil war in the country has made politics unsafe for women who are seen as more vulnerable to physical and verbal abuse.

3. Education reinforces gender stereotypes and traditional gender roles. This is evident in the plantations. The school curricula are not conducive to breaking the gender barriers or challenging gender stereotypes that relegate women to the domestic domain while downplaying women's contributions to the economy.

4. *Urban/rural divides - no connections between women's groups.* Despite the presence of the active women's groups, there seems to be fewer interactions between urban and rural women. This observation is particularly true in the case of Tamil plantation women who have not benefited by the women's movement in Sri Lanka.

5. *Cultural Barriers* - modesty issues, non-support from male relatives, cultural ideas of appropriate roles for women, gender stereotypes that make essential women's nature and character, belief in the sexual vulnerability of women and double-burden of work stemming from the domestic division of labour are all barriers to women's political participation.

6. Although there have been, in recent years, a number of initiatives to increase women's participation in electoral politics such as the work by Civil Society Organizations, a fund for training women activists in politics and numerous policy documents detailing the need for women's participation in government, the overall net results have been dismal.

Conclusion

Social and cultural norms; inferior economic status; election violence, assault on character/reputation; low literacy rates and educational levels, unequal access to education; difficulty on obtaining nomination – male preference by parties for nomination; religious norms disabling women to break away from traditional roles and lack of encouragement from women already in politics are the deterrents to women's participation in politics in South Asia.

Aside from campaigns, an integral part of the core strategies for women's political participation is building women's agendas for change. Women's political leadership should further be strengthened in terms of realizing the agenda of people-centered and sustainable development; women political leaders have to overcome identity politics, local elite politics and control by family dynasties, which in many developing countries have been the same forces that have allowed women to access positions of political power in the first place are the current women's agenda in South Asian Countries.

1.3 Background of Violence Against Women In Politics Programme

South Asia Partnership International (SAPI) is southern-based, southern-led regional association of National South Asian Partnerships in Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, India and Canada.

South Asia Partnership International, with its national SAP members, has evolved from a support and capacity building system to small community based organizations solving local poverty challenges to become an international agency advocating for regional good governance, peace and sustainable livelihoods. With its nearly 25 years of experience and its thrust to seek new spaces for civil society activism, SAP International is addressing its challenges of maintaining its internal strength, engaging with other progressive organizations, learning to advocate effectively and attracting sufficient resources for its ambitious and pioneering missions.

In its pace of development, South Asia Partnership International has undertaken diverse program and projects of regional and national level. Based on past experiences and collective strengths of the SAP system, SAP-International has initiated Violence against Women in Politics (VAWIP) program to be implemented during the years 2006-07 with the support of Oxfam Novib. Violence against Women in Politics (VAWIP) is one of the programs currently being implemented, which is focused in promoting and protecting women's right to dignified political participation.

The overall objective of the VAWIP program is to contribute to creating an enabling environment for establishing democratic practices, for inclusion of women in political decision-making process, in South Asia.

This program is based on the premise of addressing the regional issue of women's participation in politics and governance. Specifically, promotion of quantitative as well as effective participation of diverse groups of women in politics and accountability and transparency among political parties in South Asia have been identified as the major thrust of this program. This program strives to directly influence the national governments of the SAARC countries; Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Political system of all the South Asian countries is influenced by the traditional socio-political norms and discriminatory gender practices and policies.

It is understandable that experience of violence against women in politics is not commonly expressed by the politicians due to unavailability of specific forums to address such issues. Experience sharing and the open dialogue on the incidents of violence against women in politics by the victim/survivors are essential for building regional perspective on combating violence against women in politics and bringing people together for solidarity in addressing the issue. To bring the issue to regional level, it is essential that the incidents of violence against women in politics be addressed at the local and national levels first.

A surveillance system was thus designed, to monitor, document and address the issue of Violence against women in politics at local, national and regional levels, under this project.

1.4 Violence Against Women in Politics

1.4.1 Definition

To understand the meaning of the phrase "violence against women in politics", it is first important to understand the meaning of "violence against women" and "women in politics". According to the Article 1 of the International Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW, 48/104)), *"Violence against women means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life*."

The definition of the word *"women in politics"* under this program denotes all women, who are participating in politics or who have been initiating or developing or have developed their career in politics at local or national level, within the South Asian Region.

Therefore, in the course of implementation of this program "Violence Against Women In Politics" connotes any act of violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women politician, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life; within family, within inter-political part or intra-political parties level, at societal and at state level during her political career. It also includes any act of violence against any family member of women politician, which can affect her mental well-being deterring her political participation.

Violence against women in politics in general may be also understood as any act of violence against women for political reasons or for their involvement in politics or their link to political activities. Any acts of violence against women politicians or even any acts of violence on family members of women politicians that hinders women's political participation are all violence against women in politics.

1.4.2 Nature of Violence against Women in Politics

Women not only in general but even political women are being victimized by the common nature and different incidences of violence like character assassination, rape, murder, beating, assault, overthrown from position, manipulation, create pressure groups for contradiction etc. during and after the elections. The various types of violence against women in politics can be broadly be categorized under psychological and physical violence.

I. Psychological Violence: Mental Torture/Pressure/Harassment

Psychological violence may be defined as any form of violence, pressure or discrimination that leads to mental pressure/stress on the person being violated. It can take many forms like trauma, mental torture, blaming, threats, mental harassment, mental pressure, passing lurid/derogatory comments- verbal abuse,

creating guilt in the person for something the person is not responsible for, mentally weakening a person, distorting a persons' normal point of view, making a person feel incapable of something, boycotting and creating a feeling of helplessness. Even physical violence is in part a psychological violence, as the consequence of physical violence is often fear, self loathing for letting the violence take place, feeling of helplessness, loss of self-confidence and inability to separate the incidence of violence from the person's other daily activities.

All these psychological violence often result in the person being affected slowly withdrawing from their regular activities, public life and stopping their process of self expression, which has a high probability of leading the victims to depression and in severe cases even mental imbalance. Examples of psychological violence against women in politics are use of abusive language, threats to make women politicians withdraw from inter party election/intra party election/party membership, coercion to vote for unwanted party leaders or bribery within the party, extortion threats, death threats, violence against family members, character assassination of women politicians, suspicion by family members or husband etc.

II. Physical Violence: Rape, Murder Attempt

Physical violence may be defined as any act of violence or harassment that physically/bodily harms the person being violated. Even psychological violence that results in physical harm of the being for e.g. mental imbalance, leading to suicide may be termed as physical violence. The most common forms of physical violence against women politicians are beating, pushing, gripping, pinching, physical torture, molestation and sexual abuse. More severe forms of physical violence are kidnapping/abduction, attempts of rape, rape, murder attempts, murder/assassination and physical mutilation.

1.4.3 Occurrence of Violence

Occurrence of violence against women in politics may be at any place, in public or in private, however both of this can be at different levels of the social structure, at family, societal and political level. We may like to reflect here only those violence which affect women politicians to either participate in political process or in their advancement in politics within the political party or local/ national politics.

I. Societal Level: Family Pressure/Character Assassination, Class or Caste in Fighting

Violence against women may be at the societal level, wherein violence is inflicted on the victims by the society as a whole, due to social norms, cultural values and beliefs. Such violence is usually borne out of the discriminatory practices that society has been accepting and condoning since time immemorial. When any such violence is inflicted on women involved politics, either to thwart her decision to get involved in politics, or just because she has participated in politics, it becomes violence against women in politics at the societal level.

Violence at the societal level also encompasses violence inflicted on women by family members, more commonly known as domestic violence. When a woman is subjected to domestic violence to hinder her political participation, or as a result of her political participation, or results in deprivation of her right to political participation, it is violence against women in politics.

Perpetrators of Violence at Societal level could be family members- husband, in-laws, parents, brothers, sisters or children, relatives, and friends, society/community members/leaders, political party colleagues, activists of different ideology – political or social, media- yellow journalists, commercial media persons, law personnel(lawyers/judges) or people from different ideological groups.

II. Political level: Leg pulling or Nepotism During in Party Competition

Violence against women at the political level is when acts of violence occur against women politicians within the political party or outside the political party in the political arena. Such violence may be either physical or psychological, either in private or in public. The violence meted out by political parties for being a woman in politics or on her family members affecting her political participation is also known as violence at the political level.

Perpetrators of violence at political level are political party colleagues/leaders from own party or opposition party members, mafia/gangster/goons, armed security forces-police/army, activists of different ideology – political or social, media- yellow journalists, commercial media persons, lawyers/judges – commercial or from different ideological groups, bureaucrat in power position–from different political ideology etc.

III. State Level

Violence against women in politics at the state level is when acts of violence are institutionalized in the state practices. Discriminatory government policies, absence of rule of law/policies to protect women involved in politics, discriminatory practices of the government, patriarchal mindset of the head of the State who are usually men, lack of gender sensitivity in government authorities, lack of gender sensitive state police/army/ armed forces, lack of effective implementation of positively discriminatory policies like reservations for women's political participation, Violence against women in politics by armed and security forces are all different kinds of state inflicted violence. Partisan media (media influenced or guided by party ideologies), unethical practices of government owned media like, concealing cases of violence against women in politics, violence by armed forces, party leaders/contemporaries etc in an effort to hide such cases, so that it does not negatively reflect on their government or political parties and to dampen efforts of victims to seek justice are all violence inflicted on women by the state. Indifference and gender insensitive practices of government owned media, like insignificance given to reports/news on/of women politicians, underreporting success stories of women politicians and bringing their grievances to public, are also violence against women in politics inflicted by the state to surpress women's political achievements and to deter women's participation in decision making**.**

More women politicians from South Asia are victimized in comparison to the northern world. Violence is one of the strong causes that hinder the entire process of women's development. Women's participation in politics is demoralized due to the repeated incidents of violence. Moreover even national governments are reluctant to introduce strong legal or any other mechanism to enhance women's participation in governance and reduce the Violence against them.

Surveillance System

2. Introduction of Surveillance System

Concept

To address the issue of violence against women in politics, it is important to first understand the various kinds of violence being perpetrated on women in politics. As an effort to understand the incidences and nature of violence and the present coping mechanisms being adopted by women politicians, a regional surveillance system has been designed under our VAWIP programme to monitor the incidence of violence against women in politics at local, national and regional level. Black's Law Dictionary defines surveillance as an investigative technique involving visual or electronic observation or listening directed at a suspected person or place.

The surveillance system under the VAWIP programme is a mechanism and tool to monitor violence against women in politics and undertake appropriate measures to control or mitigate such acts of violence. This surveillance system can create and strengthen a community wide response to the problems of violence against women in politics that is not only hindering process of upper mobility for women to be in the political governance, but also causing breakdown of law, order and morality within the society.

In VAWIP programme, it is a system of observation, which is effective between three tires of Watch Groups and SAP System[28] to monitor or investigate, document, communicate and control the cases of violence against women in politics; and to document and share the coping mechanisms adopted by the survivor. Such activities would be located from the community level to national and region level within South Asia.

2.1 Rationale

Key factors for deterioration of the social relations in the South Asian society often include discrimination and segregation based on gender, caste, class, religion, language, culture and economic status. The governance system also reflects similar notion of political relationship based on power hungry attitude.

A surveillance system within the VAWIP programme is an effective mechanism and tools to maintain a just society that takes special care of vulnerable and

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[28] Along with the SAP International, SAP Nationals in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal SAP System includes the Youth for Action, India in the execution of VAWIP program.

disadvantaged sections of the society, from among the women in politics. This system is therefore a mechanism to prevent violence against women in politics and protect the victim/survivors through constant vigilance, and monitoring of social/political actions. The remedial mechanism through referral system for legal aid, trauma/medical counseling and rehabilitation will be an important element of the system. Information sharing mechanism will strengthen the system overall.

2.2 Characteristics of the System

The Surveillance system is primarily based on the principles of accountability for the prevention and protection of potential victims, women in politics. Transparency, ownership and participation of the stakeholders in the system are important aspects of the monitoring mechanism for the system to be fully functional. The system will be woven around these three elements of accountability, whereby the major actors of the society will be motivated and mobilized to protect the women politicians. The participation of women politicians in the elections at local and national levels and within the political parties will be facilitated. This will ultimately help to promote women in politics.

The surveillance system encompasses the following characteristics:

- Community ownership, especially of women in politics
- Voluntary participation of the members of the society in the collective management of the system
- Transparent information sharing process generated among the members of Watch Groups
- Responsive and responsible mechanism to address the issues of violence against women in politics

2.3 Scope of the System

One of the major outcomes of the VAWIP programme is to establish a mechanism for effective functioning of Community, National and Regional Watch Groups for violence against women in politics. The Watch Groups will primarily be responsible to monitor over the violence against women in politics at community, national and regional level. The phasing of the surveillance will help in playing the role of prevention and protection by Watch Groups effectively and efficiently.

Among the different activities of the VAWIP programme, development and application of Regional Surveillance System (RSS) is one of the key activities to achieve the aforesaid outcomes. Regional Surveillance System (RSS) is the mechanism for creating a research base for understanding the situation of violence both at country and at the regional level. It could help in creating awareness among the public, advocacy campaigning against such violence (pre and post incidents), lobbying for positively discriminatory laws and in alliance building among Watch Groups, including other like minded groups, organizations and network, for (I) policy influencing to reduce violence against women in politics and (II) promotion of networks working on women in politics.

RSS will be the tool to collect and disseminate the information relating to violence against women in politics from among grassroots level to regional level through a bottom up approach. It will focus on documentation, communication, dissemination, referral and advocacy campaigning to be adopted by Watch Groups members.[29]

The Regional Surveillance System would help in identifying the stakeholders while creating a Protection Triangle[30] at the community level. Three groups of Women Citizens, Government Authority and Gender Sensitive Groups will be identified in the first phase, which will help in creating stakeholders to protect women politicians from any violence that could occur at family, societal and political party levels.

Information collected primarily on violence against women politicians, various experiences of women politicians/ survivors/ different stakeholders[31] at community level and the secondary information collected from media and other relevant sources, will form the base for effective implementation of the surveillance system. Thus it refers to a system regulated and implemented by the Watch Groups with the help of the relevant community.

The RSS would help create an inventory of women politicians from the selected political parties and data profiles of the selected victim/survivors of violence against women in politics. Furthermore, to activate referral mechanism, inventory will be developed from the related trauma/medical counseling center, legal aid centers, rehabilitation centers and communication service centers. The victim/survivors will contact those centers/agencies when in need. Such agencies will then provide diverse remedial services to the victims/ survivors. A record of cases of violence and best practices of victim/survivors would also be maintained to create a database.

The information thus collected will also help as preventive measures in creating awareness among the public on the issues of violence against women in politics. The areas of information could be:

- What are the issues of violence against women in politics?
- How it negatively affects participation of women in political governance
- Why is it important for women politicians to be at the decision making level?
- How exclusion of women will hinder the balanced development of the state and society at large?

The Watch Groups will identify victims of violence among the women politicians and further refer them to trauma counseling/counseling center for initial psychological treatment and if needed, they will be referred to legal aid centers or health service centers as per the requirement of the victim/survivors. All the information will be disseminated to communication service centers or to the media houses located at the field levels for wider dissemination of information. Since further networking with these agencies will help create a strong support services for victims/survivors.

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[29] For more details please refer to Chapter 4 Functions of Surveillance System
[30] Refer to Chapter 3.1 First Phase: Development of Protection Triangle
[31] Refer to Chapter 7.1 Stakeholders of Surveillance System.

Similarly, information of the incidents of violence will be used for filing court cases against perpetrators and it could also be used for advocacy and lobbying at the national and international level with the support of media, human rights and UN agencies. The analysis of the cases will not only help in developing case studies, but also in deepening the process of advocacy by lobbying with the relevant Governments and SAARC for policy influencing.

2.4 Mission Statement

Regionalization of the issues of violence against women in politics, to ensure women's participation in political governance within South Asia.

2.5 Goal

To enhance safe and secure political environment for women

2.6 Objectives

1) Facilitating preventive and protective measures for women in politics against acts of violence

2) Creating a regional model of surveillance for combating violence against women in politics.

2.7 Expected Outcomes

1) Women politicians organized to mobilize for preventing acts of violence

2) Submission of VAWIP Regional Declaration as a regional instrument to combat violence against women in politics

2.8 Outcome Wise Expected Outputs

Outcome 1:

- Establishment of Protection Triangle
- Establishment of Watch Groups at Community, National and Regional level.

Outcome 2:

- Networking and knowledge sharing among the stakeholders including Watch Groups.
- Advocacy campaigning and lobbying interventions for positive and gender sensitive policies and programs/actions of political governance.

2.9 Strategic Actions

- Establishment of Watch Groups at the national and regional levels,
- Capacity building of Watch Groups members,
- Establishment of referral system for trauma/medical counseling and legal aid for women victims/survivors,
- Documentation of cases of violence and best practices of mitigation strategies.

3. Phases of the Surveillance System

Phases

There are two phases in the establishment of the surveillance system, first phase for development of Protection Triangle and second phase for the development of Additional Community Resources. Ideally, the second phases should be undertaken only after the first phase is complete. However, following time line of the project, second phase of the system can also be started simultaneously with the first phase.

3.1 First Phase: Development of Protection Triangle

The first phase of the surveillance system will include building the base for the surveillance system without which functioning of the system is impossible. The base of this system is the "Protection Triangle", which will be created at community level by Community Watch Groups with the help of their concerned National Watch Groups. The first phase should be initiated soon after Community Watch Groups have been formed and their capacity has been built and should be complete as per the planned timeline.

It will be the responsibility of the national Watch Group to orient members of Community Watch Groups, on the issue of violence against women in politics and on how to network with other stakeholders like service providers, communication centers, human rights organizations, during the first phase.

Building a "Protective Triangle" for women politician: is a network of solidarity between (a) women citizens, (b) the community level government authority including police, army and other security personnel, and (c) gender sensitive groups e.g. human rights activists, teachers, lawyers, journalists, community leaders etc. will be established at various levels *(Refer Figure 1: Protection Triangle for Women Politicians).* The purpose of establishing the Triangle is to prevent incidences of violence against women in politics as well as to protect survivor women politicians from the perpetrators after the incidents of violence. Women Politicians will be the focal group for whom Protection Triangle will be established, who as a stakeholder of the protection triangle will also support other members of protection triangle for prevention of violence against them.
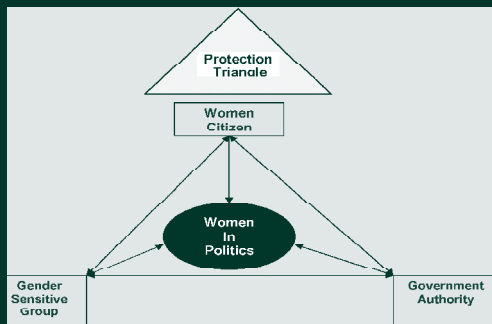
Figure 1: Protection Triangle for Women Politicians

The Community and National Watch Group Members will facilitate the networking process between all stakeholders of the protection triangle including women politicians and support them to ensure collaborated efforts to protect, monitor and report cases of violence against women in politics. The Watch Groups will then sensitize stakeholders of the Protection Triangle on the issues of violence against women politicians and its consequences on women in politics. The stakeholders of the Triangle will then be made responsible for prevention of incidents of violence from occurring and protection of survivors, if violence has already taken place. The Protection Triangle will be the primary source of information for Watch Groups.

3.2 Second Phase: Development of Additional Community Resources

The surveillance system would enter into the second phase once, the first phase is completed, i.e. protection triangle is created and all involved have been oriented on the issue and tools of the surveillance system. Once networking within the protection triangle and skills of networking have been imparted to members of protection triangle, a communication system and referral system will be established without which functioning of the surveillance system would remain incomplete.

Communication system development: In the second phase, an effective communication system has to be established connecting political women community with the Watch Groups at community, national and regional levels. It is assumed that given the South Asian context, most of the incidents of violence occur in the rural areas, where strong traditional social value system prevails and security system and effective judicial mechanism are absent. Even the communication system promoted by the State is often feeble and ineffective. Thus, an effective communication system connecting Community and National Watch Groups with protection triangle and institutions, working on the issues of women and providing paralegal counseling, trauma counseling and information networking services, can help protect vulnerable women politicians *(refer Box 1: The Elements of Communication* System*)*.

The Watch Groups should also build rapport and linkage with Communication Service Centers including media, Human Rights Organization and Security Agencies for efficient reporting to these agencies for advocacy and campaigning. Community Watch Groups should record and share cases of violence and coping mechanism, for further actions, through online and offline tools of communication. Thus communication system will have to be established to create linkage between all concerned stakeholders of the surveillance system to facilitate the process of monitoring, protecting, rescuing and providing remedial services within the system.

Box 1: The Elements of Communication System

> *o   Connecting women political community with Watch Groups and SAP system.*
> *o   Connecting community/national watch groups with Protection Triangle and institutions working on the issues of women having paralegal, trauma counseling and information networking services.*
> *o   Connecting watch groups with Media, Human Rights Originations and Security*

Referral System development: In the absence of proper state-operated legal and psychological counseling services at the Community level, in most of the countries of South Asia, advocacy and psychotherapy has become the prime responsibility of the watch group members and their referral partners. This proactive and community based approach of alternative referral system encourages and enhances public's access to the judicial system and counseling processes. It is anticipated that there would be many such service providers who are providing such services to women victims, already in existence in each of these countries. Therefore, connecting with the already existing agencies for referral system would further strengthen the service system to provide support services to victimized women politicians.

Therefore, Watch Groups (including Protection Triangle) have to establish functional linkages with Referral Service Agencies for smooth functioning of the surveillance system. Referral service agencies could be legal aid agencies, medical and psychological counseling centers, rehabilitation homes etc *(refer Box 2: Nature of Functional Linkage with Service Providers)*.

Box 2: Nature of Functional Linkage with Service Providers

> *o   Legal aid agencies for legal counseling and filing court cases against perpetrators*
> *o   Trauma/Medical Counseling centers for psychological treatment and médical treatment to victims/ survivors*
> *o   Réhabilitation homes for shelter to victims/survivors where needed.*

4. Functions of Surveillance System

Functions

Surveillance System will basically help in Prevention and Protection of women in politics from violence through various measures undertaken by different stakeholders at various levels. Thus, Watch Groups will primarily be responsible for undertaking these tasks *(refer Box 3: Tasks of Prevention and Protection)* at the development phases as well as during the implementation of the surveillance system.

Box 3: Tasks of Prevention and Protection

Prevention *Immediate and compulsory tasks*	*Protection* *Tasks that take place in case of occurrence of violence*
Data base development	*Mobilization of Referral Agencies*
Protection Triangle Development	*Referring the cases to various referral agencies*
Awareness Building	*Facilitation for filing the cases in Court*
Referral System Development	*Media Campaigning on the incidents of violence*
Communication System Development	*Lobbying With Political Parties, line ministries and Parliamentarians*

Mainly, there are four types of functions under the activation of surveillance system: documentation, communication, referral and advocacy campaigning. All of these four functions are supplementary and complimentary to one another

4.1 Documentation

Documentation is the process of storing information in a systematic manner for future use. It is the act or process of substantiating by recording actions and/or decisions.[32] For the purpose of documentation, different kinds of information relating to violence against women in politics will be collected

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[32] http://www.epa.gov/records/gloss/gloss03.htm

(refer Box 4: Types of Information for Documentation). Collection of these information, on the incidents of violence against women in politics and mitigation strategies, best practices, referred cases and court cases will be done by the Community and National Watch Groups. These could be collected from various sources of information at both the community and national level, through the help of stakeholders of the protection triangle including media houses, civil society organizations, and community based organizations, security forces and any other reliable sources of information *(refer to Figure 2: Surveillance Communication System).* The collected information on the incidents, mitigation strategies or any type of action, legal or general, against the incident or violence will be documented by Watch Groups[33]. Once information on incidents is received, it will be first reported to the local police and then the cases will be documented and sent for further actions.

Tools of Documentation:

Documentation of information collected can be done by using various told of documentation available. For the purpose of VAWIP surveillance system, four different information collection and documentation frameworks (refer *to Annex II, III, IV*) have been developed, which can also be used as the basic tools for documentation of the collected information. Apart from this, VAWIP websites[34] (www.vawip.net)and

 VAWIP Dgroups[35] (www.dgroups/groups/vawip) can also be used as tools of documentation within this system through which Watch Groups members can directly document cases and share information.

Box 4: Types of Information for Documentation

> o *Information on the incidents of VAWIP*
> o *Information on the mitigation strategies and or best practices adopted by women politicians*
> o *Information on referred cases*
> o *Information on cases filed in law courts*

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[33] Please follow Annex III for the framework for documenting the aforesaid information.

[34] The official VAWIP programme website, which also allows users to enter information in it using a tool called blog.

[35] VAWIP Dgroups is a virtual online discussion forum, where people working for violence against women in politics and similar causes can share information, knowledge and experiences to jointly come up with recommendations to address the issues related to it.

4.2 Communication

Communication is the process of sharing relevant information and knowledge between two or more parties ensuring that the receiver understands the message in the same meaning as intended by the sender. It is a two way process, where sharing is done for a specific purpose in a specific manner. For effective utilization of the documented information by Watch Groups, appropriate communication is indispensable.

Communication system in VAWIP Surveillance System is a channel of communication established for the ease of implementing actors in the surveillance system to know whom to connect and communicate so that it is done in a systematic and proper manner. The four functions of surveillance system are interrelated and communication system is central to it, without which functions of surveillance will cannot be integrated.

For VAWIP Surveillance System, information has to be disseminated to a few selected relevant agencies for the protection and prevention of violence against women in politics *(refer Box 5: Agencies for Information Dissemination).*

According to the nature and seriousness of incidents and cases, the information will be compiled, examined and disseminated among communication service centers[36], gender sensitive groups, human rights organizations, and government authorities including security forces, regional/international agencies including SAARC, UN and other surveillance system stakeholders.

Box 5: Agencies for Information Dissemination

- *o* **Communication service centers**
- *o* **Human rights organizations**
- *o* **Gender sensitive groups**
- *o* **Government authority including security forces**
- *o* **Regional/international agencies including SAARC and UN**
- *o* **National and Regional Watch Group**
- *o* **Other Surveillance System stakeholders**

However, for effective communication an appropriate communication system (*please refer Figure 2 Surveillance Communication System: Flow chart*), that can determine the appropriateness of information, timing and stakeholders for disseminating a particular type of information to any specific agencies (*refer Box 5*), needs to be developed. Communication with legal aid would be different than that with the Communication

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[36] Any place through which communication can be maintained with external world like PCOs, internet cafes, tele-centers etc.

Service Centers. Therefore it would be necessary for Community or National Watch Group, to develop the criteria contextualizing the situation, for sending the information to particular agencies according to the type and nature of incidents of violence. The system would also determine which means of communication to be used, depending on the urgency and importance of the information and what role each member of the Watch Group would play during different phases of the surveillance system and under different circumstances.

Tools of Communication

The tools of communication in this system can be meetings, interactions for direct face to face communication, and telephone, e-mails, fax, web portals, reports and VAWIP Dgroups[37] etc for virtual communication, using which one actor can communicate to another.

Figure 2 Surveillance Communication System: Flow Chart

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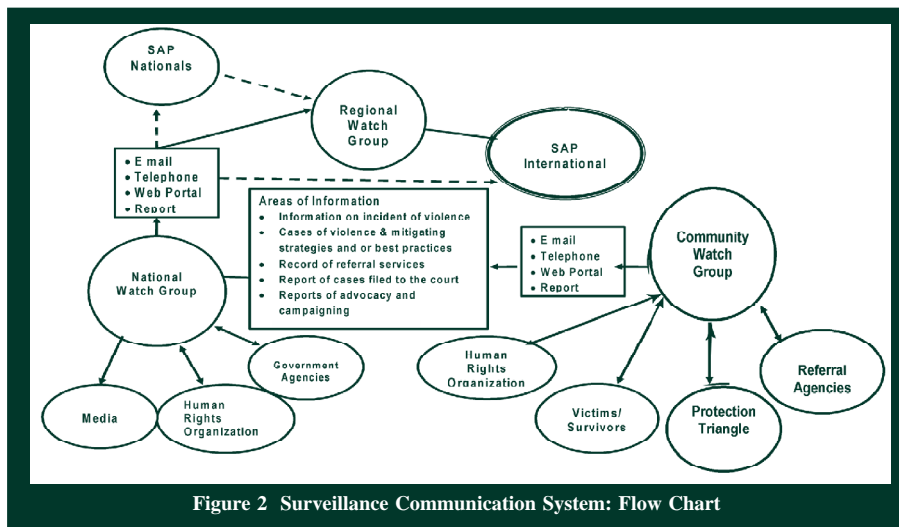
[37] VAWIP Dgroups (www.dgroups.org/groups/vawip) is a virtual online discussion forum, where people working for violence against women in politics and similar causes can share information, knowledge and experiences to jointly come up with recommendations to address the issues related to it.

Communication Process in the Surveillance System

Surveillance Communication system consists of ten actors who disseminate information even among themselves for the functioning of the surveillance system. Community Watch Groups extract, collect compile and document information on incidents and cases of violence, of best practices, mitigation strategies and maintain records of cases sent for referral services and cases filed at court from victims/survivors, human rights organizations, communication centers including media and security forces and also share information collected from one source with other sources of information. The documented information is disseminated using various means of communication like email, telephone or web portal to, their respective National Watch Groups. National Watch Group will compile all documented cases together with information on cases/ incidents of violence reported by National media and other sources of information at the National level and communicate the same to SAP Nationals at regular intervals or as and when cases are reported. National Watch Group will send a compiled national report on cases of violence to the Regional Watch Group, which will then be shared with SAP International as per the planned timeline. Advocacy campaigning based on the information received on cases will be carried out by SAP Nationals together with Watch Groups. National advocacy report together with the compiled national cases will be analyzed, to identify gaps that need to be filled to address the issue of violence against women in politics. The recommendations will be drafted as a proposal for Regionaldeclaration which will be submitted to the SAARC, UN and CEDAW committee for consideration for adoption.

4.3 Referral

Referral is the process of recommending one to another for fulfillment of a specific purpose. Referral in surveillance system is the process of referring victims/survivors of violence to the relevant service provider for the benefit of the victims/survivors in dealing with the incidence of violence. The Watch Groups, at first, will prepare an inventory[38] of different service providers like trauma/counseling centers, legal aid centers and communication service centers. Once these service centers are in the list, a network among the different service providers and Watch Groups will be created. The Watch Group members will have to build rapport with referral service providers and orient them on the issue of violence against women in politics, to ensure that they will take on cases referred by them and provide appropriate services. This will ensure smooth and effective operation of the referral system wherein immediate help can be provided to victims/survivors of violence against women in politics.

The different tasks of Watch Group for effective implementation of the referral function are given in *Box 6: Tasks of Watch Group for Providing Referral Services* next page.

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[38] List of counseling centers with name, objective, address and contract persons of the organization.

Box 6: Tasks of Watch Group for Providing Referral Services

> o *Inventory of different service providers*
> o *Rapport building with the service providers for networking*
> o *Listing of the requirements of service providers*
> o *Identification of victims/survivors*
> o *Refer victims/survivors to the concerned centers for trauma/medical treatment, legal aid and rehabilitation centers etc*

However, to develop linkage with the nearest service providers at the location of the working areas, the Watch Group Members will have to develop good rapport with the service providers. The service providers will have to be convinced of the relevance and importance of the necessary actions. At the same time, Watch Groups will also have to understand the service providers' requirements and purpose, thus keeping in mind the specific situation, Watch Groups will have to act accordingly.

The Watch Groups will work as the link between the victim and service centers. They will identify victims/survivors of violence against women in politics needing counseling services and refer them to the concerned trauma/ medical counseling centers as per their need depending upon the seriousness of their injury and/ or requirement of the victims. For example trauma counseling will be provided first to a victim who has suffered mental trauma and referred to other legal/ medical services later; while those with physical injury will be first referred to medical treatment center, and only if needed then to counseling center or legal aid or any other related center. The status of cases referred to service providers will have to be recorded and communicated to the concerned Community Watch Groups

4.3 Advocacy Campaigning

Advocacy takes its root from the legal profession and means speaking out or pleading on behalf of another to bring about justice and can also mean proposing or recommending someone or something.[39] Advocacy for development represents the strategies devised, actions taken and solutions proposed to influence decision-making at the local & state level to create positive change for people and their environment.[40] It is the act of taking up an issue and fighting for its cause to make it acceptable to all in the society through public support. Campaigning is a tool of advocacy, which is the process of mobilizing people to join together to take action to challenge the powerful to make decisions to help benefit, not harm the powerless. Through this tool of advocacy information on an issue is disseminated to a large mass of people for awareness about the issue, so that actions can be taken, to attain a specific result. Thus, campaigning is the first step in this function *(for details refer to Box 7: Tasks of Advocacy Campaigning),* which will eventually pave the path for lobbying

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[39] http://youth.tearfund.org/students/campaign/what+is+campaigning.htm
[40] http://wch.uhs.wisc.edu/11-Action/11-Action-01WhatIsIt.html

with regional and international agencies. Public awareness is the primary action Watch Group has to initiate at the field level, which will alert the public and stakeholders of Protection Triangles about the relevance of the VAWIP issue. This would not only help in creating a congenial environment for them to work, but will also help prevent women politicians being victimized. Then after, serious cases will be identified, from which themes for campaigning will be developed.

Stakeholders of the Protection Triangle and Watch Group Members will be the primary actors for the actions of advocacy campaigning. Advocacy at local and national level will be coordinated by the respective Community and National Watch Groups. The final advocacy campaigning will be carried out at the regional level by regional watch group in coordination with SAP International through a Regional Declaration.

Box 7: Tasks of Advocacy Campaigning

o Public awareness
o Identification of serious issues on the basis of first hand information collection
o Selection of themes/messages
o Organizing of advocacy campaigning
o Regional level declaration and submission to UN, SAARC and other international agencies

Once the nature of cases of violence is collected *(refer to chapter 1.4.2 Nature of Violence Against Women In Politics)*, documented and analyzed, the serious issues could be identified. As per the need of the different countries, various themes/messages will be selected by the Watch Group with the support of concerned SAP National and SAP International. The collected information and documents will become the primary source for developing themes/messages and for developing campaign material at community or national and regional level. Advocacy campaigning on the identified themes should be organized at the community and national levels with the support of their respective National SAP office. Advocacy campaigning can be organized through rally, *dharana*, gherao, corner meetings, pestering etc. Similarly, SAP Nationals will lobby with the election commission, relevant ministries and political parties for the adoption of appropriate policies and practices to reduce and mitigate cases of violence against women politicians. Watch Group together with the help of SAP National will organize meetings with political leaders on a one-to-one basis or collectively to share the recommendation or code of conduct, prepared by SAP Nationals, to be followed by Political Parties to prevent violence against women politicians and protect victims/survivors of such violence.

Regional Watch Group will prepare a regional level declaration in cooperation of National Watch Groups, SAP National, Partner and SAP I, once the cases and analysis is reported by the National Watch Group. The draft declaration will be based on the issues identified and outcome of the advocacy campaign organized at various levels by the National Watch Groups. This Regional Declaration will be submitted to SAARC, UN and other regional institutions for necessary actions on the matters. Campaigning and lobbying at regional level will be performed by Regional Watch Groups.

5. Area of Information

Areas

It is the responsibility of the Watch Groups to collect information on cases of violence against women in politics. The following kinds of information will be recorded by the Watch Group for further recourse and future reference;

- Information on incident of violence
- Cases of violence & mitigating strategies and or best practices
- Record of cases sent for referral services
- Record of cases filed to the court
- Information of interventions of advocacy campaign

A framework for collection of information of violence has been developed, which will be used by Community and National Watch Groups, within the VAWIP programme, to collect as well as record the information so collected. A sample of each framework for collecting and documenting different kinds of information listed above are given in:

o Annex II	Brief Information on Incidents of Violence against Women in Politics
o Annex III A.	Data Profile of Women Victim/Survivors in Politics
o Annex III B.	Data Profile of Perpetrators of Women in Politics
o Annex IV	Information on best practices

Only after cases are recorded, the case will be moved for further action like referral services, lawsuits etc. A record of all cases sent to referral services will be maintained for reference and further follow up as to whether the cases referred to services like psychological, medical or legal counseling have been provided with the services or not and whether it is further sent for legal recourse. This will help ensure that all cases documented are followed through and if not, it will give an insight into why cases have not followed through the referral course of action. Information on interventions of advocacy campaign should be matained for reporting.

The Watch Groups at community, national and regional level will be responsible for prompt dissemination of the information so documented via any of the following means of communication available in the concerned area:

- E mail
- Telephone
- Web Portal
- Media

5.1 Information on Incidents of Violence

Brief information of the incident of violence will be collected and disseminated by Watch Groups as and when the incident occurs. This information would only include the fist basic details about the incidence of violence. Community and National Watch Groups will collect the information of violence from primary sources like the victim/survivors themselves or their family/friends/colleagues as well as secondary sources like media or other relevant sources. The information will be disseminated to Communication Service Centers (having media connection) and to other stakeholders including Police, Government Authorities, National Watch Group and SAP National office. For this purpose, prompt and concise information is required. It is important that privacy of the victim/survivors be maintained by both the parties, watch group member and media personals. It is necessary to obtain the permission of victims/survivors before releasing any information relating to their case to any agency.[41]

5.2 Cases of Violence and Mitigating Strategies

More detailed information of violence will be required for a better understanding of the case and to take the case for referral services. This information will be divided into five sections, victims/survivors details, details of violence, cases of mitigation strategies, perpetrators details and best practices, if any, adopted by the National government or recognized NGOs/INGOs or adopted by the survivors to cope with situation fo violence or for protection from violence. For this, a framework called "Detailed Information on Violence against Women in Politics" has been developed, which needs to be consulted prior to collecting the cases.

Victim/survivor herself will provide the information in detail. If she authorizes a third person to provide her information, consent letter from the victim/survivor will be maintained by the concerned Watch Group member for authentication of the information so provided.

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[41] For this, a framework called "Brief Information on Violence against Women in Politics" has been developed which needs to be consulted for information collection.

5.3 Record of Referral Services

Counseling centers normally are supposed to provide remedial services to the victims/survivors free of cost. These referral services could either be for legal aid or for trauma/medical counseling or any type of aforementioned counseling. Description of the cases referred for legal aid and/or trauma counseling and detail of the counseling report needs to be recorded and documented for future references. The Watch Group will maintain a progress record of any kind of support, counseling, legal aid, health treatment etc. provided to the victim with the cooperation of victims/survivors and service centers. The reports of the cases's progress will be delivered to the respective National Watch Groups, Regional Watch Groups and SAP National.

5.4 Record of Cases Filed to the Court

If, after the necessary legal counseling, the legal aid center finds that the case needs to /can be filed before the court of law, the concerned center will begin the process of lawsuit. The respective Watch Groups will maintain a record of all cases sent for filing lawsuit. The progress report of the case/s in close cooperation with the center will also be maintained. The reports of the cases will be furnished to the respective National Watch Group, Regional Watch Group and SAP National.

Right to information about the progress of court hearing will be maintained by the legal aid center in coordination with the Community/National Watch Group.

Reports

As a result of the functions of the surveillance system, watch groups will have to prepare reports of information collected in the documentation, information on status of cases in referral processes and on advocacy campaigning functions. There will be two reports based on these functions, apart from which a document of regional declaration will be prepared as an overall outcome of the surveillance system, which are as follows:

- Reports of incidents and cases of violence
- Reports of advocacy and campaigning
- Document of declaration

6.1 Reports of Incidents and Cases of Violence

Watch Groups will have to document the information of cases of violence against women politicians collected as a function of the surveillance system. A report of the documented information will be prepared and sent to the concerned National/Regional Watch Groups, SAP Nationals, or SAP International as per the timeline given in Reporting Framework for Surveillance System[42]. Of the four areas of information for documentation given in chapter 5, information on incidents of violence will be reported as and when incidents occur, while reports on cases of violence, mitigation strategies, cases filed to court, cases referred and best practices will be prepared and sent periodically (quarterly, half-yearly or yearly)as given in the "when" part of the Reporting Framework.

6.2 Reports of Advocacy Campaigning

When the advocacy and campaigning functions of the surveillance system is completed, records of the issues, themes/ subjects, dates, location and stakeholders need to be maintained. Respective Watch Groups will keep the record of the event and disseminate it in the form of a report to National/ Regional Watch Groups, Media, SAP nationals and SAP International as given in the Reporting Framework for Surveillance System.[43]

6.3 Document for Regional Declaration

In the context of the violence against women in politics, various issues have to be regionalized. Once all the advocacy reports are gathered, Regional Watch Group in coordination with SAP International will assess the relevance and importance of the issue from the perspective of regionalizing the matter. Accordingly, document of Regional Declaration will be drafted and finalized by National and Regional Watch Groups in collaboration with SAP International, SAP National and partners as per the proposed timeline given in the Reporting Framework. The Declaration will be submitted to UN, SAARC and/or any other concerned regional/international agencies.

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[42] Refer Annex I Table 1: Reporting Framework for Surveillance System
[43] Refer Annex I Table 1: Reporting Framework for Surveillance System, SN 6

Structure

There will be three tiers of Watch Groups to implement the surveillance system under the VAWIP programme:

- Community Watch Groups
- National Watch Groups (5)
- Regional Watch Group (1)

There will be numerous Community Watch Groups in each country depending on the requirements of each country, one National Watch Group for each country and one Regional Watch Group in the South Asian Region. The Regional Watch Group will be formed with members selected from National Watch Groups, from among the Regional and National Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)/networks and members of National governments working on women's issues. The Community Watch Group will report to the National Watch Group and/or SAP National office, National Watch Group will in turn report to its respective SAP National office and the Regional Watch Group. The Regional Watch Group will directly report to SAP International office.

7.1 Stakeholders of the Surveillance System

Stakeholders are the well-wishers and concerned members of the civil society, who have an interest in the issue, are affected by the issue or have a responsibility to address the issue. The stakeholders of the VAWIP surveillance system are given below, each of whom have a key role to play in addressing the issue of VAWIP and ensuring smooth functioning of the surveillance system:

- Women politicians
- Watch Group members
- Members of protection triangle
- Referral agencies
- Communication service centers
- SAP International, SAP National and partner organizations

7.2 Formation of the Watch Groups

Watch Group denotes a group of person that monitors and records the certain practical norms and behavior of the certain populace for specific purposes.

The following process would be adopted for formation of the Watch Group:

- Identification and Selection of Watch Group members
- Formation of Watch Groups at different levels
- Allocation of roles and responsibilities to Watch Group members

Community Watch Group (CWG)

Community Watch Group can be formed in each of the selected working areas[44] under the VAWIP programme with the following members and SAP National will identify the number of members in each group:

a) Local level women politician

b) Women community leaders including women citizens

c) The local government authority including representative of elected bodies, bureaucracy, judiciary, development line agencies, women cells, police force etc.

d) Gender sensitive groups e.g. human rights activists, teachers, lawyers, journalists, community leaders, social workers etc.

Community Watch Group members will mutually identify the coordinator of the Watch Group from among the Community Watch Group members. National Watch Group may act as the coordinating body of the Community Watch Groups.

National Watch Group (NWG)

National Watch Group will consists of members including representatives of Community Watch Groups. One representative from each working location is essential to establish linkage and justification for future actions. There will be a National Watch Group in each country. Following categories of persons could be the members of National Watch Groups:

a) Women politician including women parliamentarian

b) Women social leaders including women right activists

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[44] The working areas would be selected by SAP National according to the violence ratio and need of the country.

c) National government authority including representative of elected bodies, sensitized citizens bureaucracy, judiciary, development line agencies, women cells, police force etc.

d) Gender sensitive groups e.g. human rights activists, teachers, lawyers, journalists, social workers and Researcher/academician.

National Watch Group members will identify the coordinator of the National Watch Group from among the group members. SAP National representative will act as the member secretary of National Watch Group. SAP National will finalize the number of the group member according to country context.

Regional Watch Group (RWG)

The Regional Watch Group will consists of 7-9 members including at least one from each of the National Watch Groups. Besides from among National Watch Group coordinators, high profile professionals like international human rights lawyer, human right activist, journalist, researcher, academician, and women parliamentarian will be selected as Regional Watch Groups Members for advocacy of the issue at international and regional levels including United Nations and SAARC.

Regional Watch Group members will identify the regional coordinator from among their team members. Representative of SAP I will act as a member secretary of the Regional Watch Group.

8. Roles & Responsibilities of Watch Groups

Roles & Responsibilities

The Watch Group Members will primarily be responsible for monitoring, documenting and sharing the cases of violence against women politicians, mitigating strategies adopted by the women politicians in their respective areas and best practices, if any, adopted by the National government or recognized NGOs/INGOs or adopted by the survivors to cope with situation of violence or for protection from violence. These information and cases will be reported to the communication service centers along with the respective National or RegionalWatch Groups, SAP I and concerned SAP Nationals. Along with the data/information of the violence, the Watch Group will prepare the case study of the incidents of violence. They will use the information obtained and documented for creating awareness about the issue, educating on the various forms of violence against women in politics, campaigning, policy influencing, counseling and taking legal actions to curb the issues of violence against women in politics. Wherever required, cases will be referred to counseling and/or paralegal centers, media and government authority including the state police to help the survivors fight against the violence. A descriptive diagram of the working process of Watch Groups, vis-à-vis the expected results of surveillance system, is given in *figure3: Mechanism of Expected Results of Surveillance System.*

By adopting the process effectively, Watch Groups can undertake the role of prevention and protection. However, apart from these above mentioned responsibilities some of the specific roles of different Watch Groups could be as given in the following pages.

Figure 3: Mechanism of Expected Results of Surveillance System
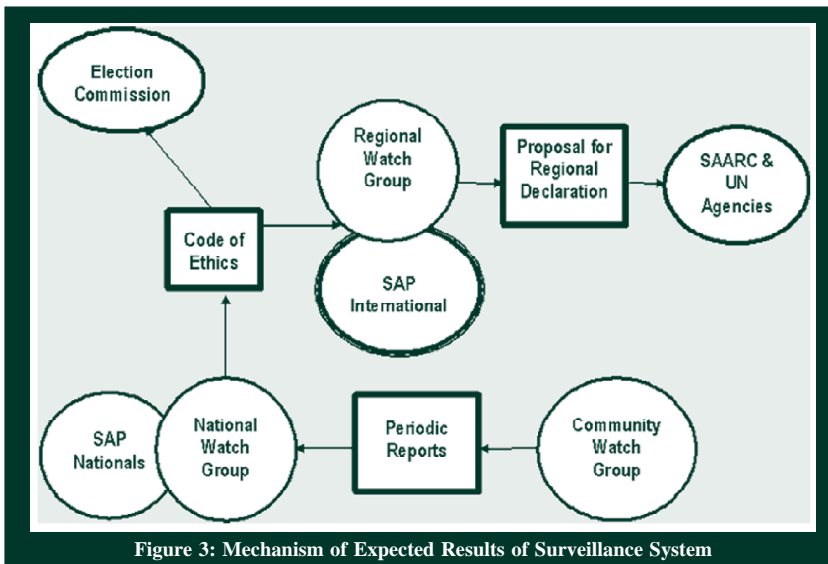
8.1 Roles and Responsibilities of Community Watch Group[45]

- Develop a Protection Triangle at the community level
- Prepare inventory of legal aid, trauma/medical counseling centers and communication service centers
- Monitor, collect and compile information on the incidents/cases of violence and coping mechanism/ mitigation strategies
- Disseminate information on the incidents/cases of violence and coping mechanism/mitigation strategies to communication service centers, police and National Watch Groups.
- Refer the victim/survivors to legal aid centers and/or trauma/medical counseling centers.
- Organize issue based advocacy campaigns on the cases of violence against women politicians
- Represent in the National Watch Group.

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[45] Recommendations to be adopted by National Watch Groups

8.2 Roles and Responsibilities of National Watch Groups

- Build capacity of Community Watch Groups
- Compile and analyze information on the incidents/cases of violence and best practices of coping mechanism/mitigation strategies at the national level
- Develop rapport with human right networks for advocacy; CSOs for sensitization; and media centers for dissemination of information on incidents of violence
- Design and launch an issue based advocacy campaigns, based on the documented cases of violence against women, at the national level
- Lobby with election commission, political parties, line ministries and relevant regional agencies for incorporating positive discriminatory policies and affirmative actions and a code of ethics for reducing violence against women in politics
- Hold periodic meetings with Community Watch Groups and other stakeholder such as women politician, government agencies, media etc to share and learn the issues of violence against women in politics and to create a common understanding on these issues.
- Prepare national reports and share with their respective SAP Nationals/partner and Regional Watch Groups
- Represent in the Regional Watch Group

8.3 Roles and Responsibilities of Regional Watch Groups

- Regionalize the sensitive issues of violence against women in politics with SAARC and other regional organizations.
- Submit a Regional Declaration to regional and international institutions including United Nation, SAARC and others.
- Build capacity of National Watch Groups

Annexes

Table 1: Reporting Framework for Surveillance System

SN	Type of Information	Context	Purpose of Information	Person Responsible	Process of Information Collection	Channels of Information Dissemination	When
1	Information on Incident of Violence	Brief Information on the Violence (Annex-II)	To provide the prompt information to the stakeholder on violence	Community watch group members (CWG) National watch groups (NWG)	Media, victim/survivor, social/human right activist, police, etc.	By Watch Groups to Communication service Centers, Protection Triangle members and respective NWG/ RWG, SAPs /Partners and SAP I including media, parliamentarism, local government bodies	As and when the incident occurs and information available
2	Cases of violence and mitigating Strategies	Victim/ Survivor's detail Perpetrator's Details (Annex-III)	To develop the data base on the victim/survivors To identify the preventive method to mitigate the violence on women in politic To find out the provision to be adopted in Code of Conduct and Acts by election commission and legislature respectively	Community watch group members (CWG) National watch groups (NWG)	Community visits, interaction with the grass root women in politics, regular monitoring with women in political governance, government authorities, media house/ persons, print and electronic both	By Watch Groups to Communication service Centers, Protection Triangle members and respective NWG/ RWG, SAPs /Partners and SAP I including media, parliamentarism, local government bodies	As and when the cases are further investigated and files are developed or information available Quarterly by NWG to RWG, SAP N and SAP International
3	Record of Referral Services: legal aid and counseling	Detail of the counseling services provided by the victim/survivors	To know the nature of counseling which provide relief and legal remedial services to the victim/ survivors	Community watch group members National watch groups	Documentation of the activities carried out by the legal aid and counseling centers on the cases referred by CWG and NWG.	By Watch Groups to respective NWG/ RWG, SAPs /Partners and SAP I	Quarterly by NWG to RWG and SAP International

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SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

S.N	Type of Information	Content	Purpose of Information	Person Responsible	Process of Information Collection	Channels of Information Dissemination	When
4	New practices, if any, adopted by the national government in recognized NGOs/INGOs	Policy interventions of national governments / Legal Provisions in favour of such violence / Any programmatic intervention implemented by government, NGOs/INGOs	To find out the policy gaps, legal lacunas and provide the recommendation of the national government / Build alliance with best programmatic intervention	Community as well as national watch group	Consult the policy documents, related legal of provisions / Consultation of documents related to best programs	By NWG to RWG, concerned SAP National and partner, etc.	Half yearly and annual report
5	Report of cases filed in the court	Detail and status update of the cases filed in the law court on behalf of victim/survivors	To be informed on the judicial involvement on the issue and advocacy to make judiciary more sensitive on the issues of VAWIP / To estimate the gravity of violence of cases filed in law court	CWG/NWG member in consultation with Legal Aid service centres	Documentation of the activities carried out by the legal Aid Service centres	By Watch Groups to respective NWG/RWG concerned SAP National and partner, local government authorities: police administration, public prosecution, media etc.	As and when the cases filed in the court / Quarterly by NWG to RWG and SAP International
6	Reports of advocacy campaigning	Issues, Themes, Messages and processes of advocacy and campaigning / Media coverage on the issues of VAWIP	To encourage women to take part in violence-free politics / To nationalize, regionalize and internationalize the issue of VAWIP	Community watch group members / National /Regional watch groups in cooperation with SAP national/ partners & SAP I	Materials developed for advocacy and campaigning / Revision in Code of conduct of each country's election competition / Increased trend of in media coverage on the issue of VAWIP	By CWG to NWG, concerned SAP National and partner, etc. / By NWG to RWG, concerned SAP National and partner, etc. / By RWG to SAP I and other related institutions	As and when advocacy campaign organized / Quarterly by NWG to RWG and SAP International
7	Document of Regional Declaration on VAWIP	Measures to discourage VAWIP and encourage greater participation of women in politics	To nationalize/ regionalize/ internationalize the issue of VAWIP and make it a common agenda	National/ Regional watch groups	Text of the declaration drafted and finalized by National/Regional watch groups in collaboration with SAP International, SAP national and partners	By RWG to UN human Rights Council through CEDAW committee to formulate instrument related to VAWIP and SAP I	As and when the declaration takes place by RWG to SAP I

1. Brief Information on Incidents of Violence against Women in Politics

A) Information of Victims/ Survivors

o   Name of the Victim/ Survivor (Voluntary) :   _____

o   Age   :   _____

o   Type/ Nature of Violence   :   _____

o   Name of the affiliated Political party   :   _____

o   Date and time of Violence   :   _____

o   Source of Information   :   _____

B) Information on Perpetrator/s

o   Name of Perpetrator   :   _____

o   Age   :   _____

o   Name of the affiliated Political party   :   _____

C) Possible cause of Violence   :   _____

D) Effects of Violence   :   _____

1. Information on Cases of Violence

A. *Data Profile of Women Victim/Survivors in Politics*

1. Victim/Survivor's Details

1.1 Personal Details

- Name : _____
- Age : _____
- Permanent Address : _____
- Mailing Address : _____
- Contact No. : _____
- Phone : _____
- Mobile : _____
- Email Address : _____
- Education : _____
- Marital Status : _____
- National Stratification :
  - Marginalized group
  - Scheduled caste (dalit/untouchable)
  - Color based discrimination
  - Others (specify)
- Position within the party when violence occurred **:** _____
- Profession **:** _____
- Parent's Profession **:** _____

1.2 Political Profile

- Name of the affiliated Party (recognized, non-recognized or rebellion):
- Date of Joining Politics
- Reasons to Join Politics (Please narrate some important information like inspiration; by interest, family's political connection etc.)
- Brief Political History (Please make some narrative statements, for example; party changed, abscond, personal political mileage, political contribution, hindrances in political career etc.)

2. Violence Details

2.1 Nature/Type of Violence (Please tick, more than one if necessary)

- Mental Torture/Pressure/Harassment
- Disappearance/abduction/Rape/rape attempt/attempt to murder/assault
- Family pressure/character assassination/interclass or caste domination/social boycott/exploitation for vested interest
- Leg pulling/nepotism/favoritism
- Kidnapping/extortion/bribery

2.2 Occurrence of Violence (Please tick more than one if necessary and specify the number of times the violence has occurred at each phase)

- While contesting (general/national or provincial/state local) elections
- During Nomination (no. of times_____)
- During Election (no. of times_____)
- After Election (no. of times_____)
- While joining politics going against the family wishes/ values and   practices (no. of times_____)
- During holding power position/authority/opposing party leadership (no. of times_____)
- While raising any specific issues (e.g. gender related issues or any revolutionary ideas) (no. of times_____)
- Other Location of Violence, if any:
- Other narrative details of the violence, if any:

2.3 Possible Causes of Violence:

- **Personal Gain** (financial/social prestige/political power/position)
- **Party Interest:** (Suppression or protection of ideology/resolving party conflict or differences/For promotion or protection of party image or credibility/curtailing or sharing power within party or in national politics
- **Social Interest** (for protecting social taboos/tradition/patriarchal mindset)
- **Economic Gain** (Abuse of authority for financial profit; commercial projects, business contract/ industrial license etc)

2.4 Consequences of the Violence (Narrative Statement):
- Personal Level:_____
- Party Level:_____
- National Level:_____

2.5 Action Update against the Violence:
- Is referral mechanism adopted? _____
- If yes, where is the case referred? _____
- Please narrate the progress of case_____

3. Coping Mechanism Adopted by the Victim/Survivor

3.1 What strategies did she adopt for her protection/political career during or after violence?

_____
_____

3.2 Were these strategies meant to minimize the future violence? If yes, how was it justified?

_____

3.3 Which strategies among those adopted have been effective and how?

_____

3.4 What sort of plan, policies and legal provision should be adopted by the concerned authority for addressing VAWIP ? Please narrate in the victim/survivor's words.

_____
_____

B. Data Profile of Perpetrators of Women in Politics

4. Perpetrator's Details (Please fill the information for each of the perpetrators)

4.1 Personal Details

- Name **:** _____
- Age **:** _____
- Sex **:** _____
- Permanent address **:** _____
- Mailing address **:** _____
- Contact No. **:** _____
- Phone **:** _____
- Mobile **:** _____
- Email address **:** _____
- Education **:** _____
- Marital Status **:** _____
- National Stratification:
  - Marginalized group
  - Scheduled caste
  - Color discrimination/class
  - Others (specify)
- Profession (please tick the appropriate choices)
  - Community leader
  - Mafia/gangster/goon
  - Police/Army
  - Political Activist
  - Activist of other sector (Pls. specify)
  - Yellow Journalist/Commercial media person

- • Bureaucrat from power position
- • Guardian's Profession (Please narrate, if any):
- • Relation with the victim/survivor :
- • Please state if the perpetrator is the member of victim's/survivor's family or political party or else? (Could be more than one)
- • Family member (Specify Relation)   : _____
- • Same political party member   : _____
- • Next party member (State the name)   : _____
- • Others (specify) :   _____

4.2 Political Affiliation (If applicable)

- • Brief Political History, if any (Please make some narrative section, for example party position, party alteration, abscond, opinion different from party norms etc.)
- • Family Members' Political History (Please specify any type of violence occurred against the family members of the perpetrator and any other important information)

In the case of more than one perpetrators please repeat the same format, No. (4), for each perpetrator.

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Annex IV

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1. Information on Best Practices

Record of Best Practices: only *Applicable to National Watch Group*

Please document the relevant information wherever applicable and analyze it in accordance to the national practice

1. Is there any provision related to policy interventions adopted by national government for combating violence against women in politics?
2. Is there any legislative provisions adopted to combat violence against women in politics?
3. Is there any program/project implemented by government or NGOs/INGOs that are particularity related with the issue of violence against women in politics?