

Subject: Strengthening Family Violence Orders to Better Protect Victims

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Date: 12/06/2024

To: The Honourable Members of Parliament

Family Violence Orders (FVOs) and intervention orders play a crucial role in protecting individuals from family violence and threats of abuse. However, there is a pressing need to review and strengthen these orders to ensure they effectively safeguard victims and hold perpetrators accountable.

Despite the existence of FVOs and intervention orders, enforcement remains a challenge. Breaches often go unreported due to fear of retaliation, lack of faith in the system, or unawareness of rights.

The process of obtaining an FVO and/or intervention order can be daunting, particularly for those already dealing with trauma. Simplifying this process can make it more accessible.

Many victims are unaware of their rights and the protections available to them. Increased awareness and education are necessary.

More importantly, the leniency that offenders are given when these orders are breached are harmful and a failure to keep people safe. More needs to be done, so that these perpetrators are dealt with in a way that will make them cease harassing their victims.

It is a travesty that more often than not, orders are not sought, as a piece of paper does nothing to prevent these perpetrators from continuing their abuse in all its forms.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

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