

**VICTIM SUPPORT UNIT
OFFICER'S CONTACTS(URBAN)**

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SO: Mr German A.C.P 0888234 555

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Insp Nthenda : 0999163850 (Traffic)

A/Supt kazandila: 0991623186(C.I.D)

KANENGO POLICE STATION

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MALAWI POLICE SERVICE



LILONGWE MODEL POLICE STATION
VICTIM SUPPORT UNIT

CREATING A SAFE AND SECURE CENTRAL REGION

In partnership with:



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VICTIM SUPPORT UNIT

This is a room set aside at the Police station where victims of crime or violence that need privacy can use. This room creates a conducive environment for assistance, support and protection to the victims. The Victim is made to feel comfortable and build confidence in the unit which also enhances him / her to give the required information which helps the officers to know the position of the case at hand. It has both male and female trained officers working on duty which helps both female / male victims feel free to lodge complaints and be assisted accordingly.

WHO IS A VICTIM?

A victim is a person who individually or collectively has suffered harm including physical or mental injury, emotional suffering, economic loss or substantial impairment of their fundamental rights through acts or omission that are in violation of criminal laws.

CASES HANDLED IN VICTIM SUPPORT UNIT

All Police cases that demand confidentiality are normally handled in the Victim Support Unit e.g.

- Defilement
- Rape
- Indecent assault
- Child Labour
- Gender based violence like wife/husband battering,
- Property grabbing
- Abduction
- Sexual offences and other offences that may require such services

SERVICES RENDERED IN VICTIM SUPPORT UNITS

1. INTERVIEWING A VICTIM

A victim is provided with a conducive environment for private interviews to take place. This helps the officer to come up with a comprehensive statement. We cover the [5WH] questions tactical approach.

2. COUNSELING

In the Unit a Victim is supported through counseling how she/he can cope with the incidence or the outcome of being victimized and how to prevent being victimized further. This instills confidence in the victim and usually they restart normal life after accepting what has happened to him/her. And this is done particularly to those who have been emotionally harmed or traumatized such as those who have been sexually abused.

3. FIRST AID

Provision of first help is given to those who have been physically abused before sending them to hospital.

4. ADVICE GIVING UNIT

The officers advise the victims correctly and assure them of Quick service in order to reduce the fear of crime

5. CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION

The unit also looks at Children who are being abused in one way or another. They are taken care of after proper enquiries are done and are sent back to their parents or guardians or even to special homes where they are taken care of.

6. ACCOUNTABILITY

Issues of domestic violence are also dealt with in the unit to help members of families in one way or another. Due to Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (No.5) kwanza za mbanja which passed in Parliament in 2006 and got Gazetted on 19th May 2006 to fully be implemented.

7. REFERRAL

The Unit does not work in isolation. It works hand in hand with other agencies/organizations that deal with victims as well such as hospitals, Social Welfare, District commissioner, NGOs.

To refer is to send or being sent to someone or somewhere for further assistance (help) and the action of sending or being sent to someone or somewhere for help, action, advice or decision is what is known as referral.

7.2. TYPES OF REFERRAL AGENCIES

A Victim is sent by the VSU officer to a specific referral agency according to the type of need he/she requires and the purpose of referring is to further assist the victim to receive services that are not offered at the unit. The Police Officer explains to the person that being a victim can be traumatic and that he/she needs counseling (Uphungu)

HOW TO GET HELP AT THE VICTIM SUPPORT UNIT.

You are free to go straight to the victim support unit office (if you know where it is located) or ask at the reception counter to be directed



At the VSU, you have the choice to speak to any VSU officer you will meet or request to speak to a male/female officer.



The VSU officer will sit with you in a private office/private place where you explain why you have visited the VSU and the services you are seeking.

In case of sexual violence;



The commencement of the counseling begins
A full statement will be recorded from the victim and a case file is opened



The victim will be given a medical report form and the victim is encouraged to go the hospital.

The victim is encouraged to come back after the hospital visit to give a copy of the medical report and continue counseling.



The case file is sent to the criminal investigations office (C.I.D) for investigation and arrest of the Perpetrator.



In case of further counseling, the victim is referred to other organizations .



The perpetrator is taken to the court of law where court procedures commence.

Where the perpetrator pleads not guilty, the victim is required to testify in court.

NOTE:

A victim may choose to go to the hospital first in cases of sexual abuse. In case of an adult victim, it is encouraged to report to the police. However, they have a choice not to do so, but all cases of child sexual abuse MUST be reported to the police immediately by any concerned party and the case can not be withdrawn because the complainant is the state.

SOME USEFUL TIPS

WHEN ALONE

- Secure all doors and windows.
- Fit and use a door chain and viewer.
- Keep your key in hands when approaching your house.
- Women who live alone should use only their initials in name plates and directories.
- Don't admit strangers into your home.
- Avoid shortcuts and dark deserted areas
- Report all suspicious incidents to police immediately

TRAVELLING ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

- Avoid isolated bus stops.
- Sit near to a driver, conductor or another woman.
- Avoid compartments or apartments carrying only one male person.

CHILDREN'S SECURITY

- the A message to women- children need your protection .
- Know the time it takes for your child to get home from school
- Immediately check any delayed arrival home.
- Know safety route to and from school.
- Instruct your child to follow that route.
- Know your children's playmate and where they play.
- Be sure any baby sitter you use is a responsible person, capable of acting in any emergency.

FRIENDS/STRANGERS

- Inform your children that strangers come in all shapes and size, and that strangers are people who do not visit your home and whose house you and your parents do not visit.
- Instruct them to report any suspicious person or attempts to approach them by unknown adult. Warn your children to ignore request from strangers for assistance.
- Inform your children that if an older person gives them gifts or money and tells them to keep it a secret, they should immediately report to parents/guardians or an older person they trust.
- Advise children that they should not allow any person to touch them on their private parts.