

# Empowering Victims: Legal Clarity in Abuse Cases

In a significant step towards empowering victims of women and child abuse, the High Court has clarified that victims can appoint personal lawyers to represent them in court. This decision enables victims to have greater control over their legal battles, ensuring they feel supported and represented.

## **Understanding the Legal Shift**

The High Court's notice ( <https://shorturl.at/Gjy5A> ) emphasizes that the tribunal operates under the Criminal Procedure Code of 1898. Sections 493 and 495 of the code allow victims to hire personal legal representation. This clarification is essential as many victims previously thought they had to rely solely on the Public Prosecutor.

## **Impact on Victims**

This development is crucial for victims who often feel overwhelmed by the legal system. With the option to bring in their own lawyer, they can ensure their interests are represented by someone they trust. This move is expected to build confidence among victims, allowing them to navigate their cases with more assurance.

## **Legal Framework and Awareness**

The High Court's notice reiterates that appointing a personal lawyer is an existing provision under the Women and Child Repression Prevention Act (2000). Despite being part of the legal framework, many victims were unaware of this option or faced difficulties in accessing it.

## **Looking Ahead**

With this newfound clarity, it is crucial for everyone involved in these cases to understand the rights available to victims. The legal community remains hopeful that this will not only reduce obstacles but also make the justice process more transparent and accessible for victims.