

CELEBRATING MOTHER'S DAY by recognising the need to protect some of our most vulnerable mothers: PREGNANT WOMEN

As we celebrate Mothers Day on Sunday, we would like to bring people's attention to the following finding from our forthcoming report *Seeking Safety*: **2 victims out of every 100 victims of domestic violence is a pregnant woman. This statistic is based on information from a large sample of people who applied for protection order in Namibia.**

Pregnant women were kicked or assaulted by the abuser. In another case where a woman had already given birth, the baby was thrown against a wall during the attack on her.

It is well-known that gender-based violence is a problem in Namibia. However details of the sad reality of such violence make the problem all the more real.

As Namibia pauses to celebrate Mothers Day this Sunday, we must consider not only how to thank our mothers but also how to protect them.



Seeking Safety is a study of the application of the Combating of Domestic Violence Act, with a view to assessing whether the law is serving its intended purpose effectively. The study is based on research which included data from

- court files of 1122 protection order applications opened during 2004- 2006, from 19 of the 31 magistrates' courts in place at the time of the study, located in 12 of Namibia's 13 regions;
- 46 key informant interviews in 19 locations, mainly with magistrates and clerks of court involved in applying the law;
- group discussions with traditional leaders, police and magistrates;
- 14 follow-up interviews with clerks of court, social workers and a magistrate; and
- an examination of reported and unreported court judgements to see how the Combating of Domestic Violence Act features in criminal cases.

The report will be released in mid-2012. Please contact Dianne Hubbard (dhubbard@lac.org.na) or Rachel Coomer (rcoomer@lac.org.na) for further information.

Please note that the person in the photograph is a model.