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## **FROM HARM TO HEALING: A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO VICTIM RIGHTS AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

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### **Introduction: -**

The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) was introduced to enhance law enforcement efficiency and strengthen victim protection, particularly in cases of sexual offenses, domestic violence, and organized crime. It aims to ensure justice through stricter enforcement, faster judicial processes, and improved victim support. Key provisions include swift investigations, harsher punishments, witness protection, digital case tracking, and enhanced police accountability.

However, challenges remain in implementation, such as reporting barriers, resource constraints, and law enforcement training gaps. This study examines BNSS's impact on victim protection and law enforcement while highlighting key obstacles to its effectiveness.

### **Hypothesis: -**

BNSS strengthens law enforcement measures, ensuring **better victim protection**, especially in cases of sexual offenses, domestic violence, and organized crime.

### **Statement of Problems: -**

The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) aims to enhance law enforcement efficiency and strengthen victim protection, especially in cases of sexual offenses, domestic violence, and organized crime. It enforces stricter laws, expedites judicial processes, and improves victim support through swift investigations, harsher penalties, witness protection, digital case tracking, and increased police accountability.

However, challenges like reporting barriers, resource constraints, and inadequate police training hinder implementation. Fast-track trials and victim compensation provisions often fall short due to enforcement gaps. This study examines BNSS's impact, identifies shortcomings, and explores reforms to ensure timely justice, protection, and support for victims, fostering a

victim-centric justice system.

### **Research Questions: -**

- 1) How do the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)** and **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)** strengthen victim rights compared to the previous legal framework (IPC and CrPC)?
- 2) What are the key **provisions for victim rights** under BNS and BNSS, and how effectively are they being implemented?
- 3) How effective are the **victim compensation schemes** under BNSS in addressing financial and psychological trauma?
- 4) How does public awareness and **legal literacy** impact the effectiveness of victim rights under BNS and BNSS?
- 5) What policy recommendations can be made to **strengthen victim rights and protections** under the new legal framework?

### **Research Methodology: -**

This study adopts a doctrinal approach, which involves analyzing judgments from the Supreme Court, various High Courts, statutes, online resources, publications, studies, and more.

### **Limitations of the study**

- 1) Since **BNS and BNSS** are recently introduced legal frameworks, there may be **limited empirical studies, case law, or statistical data** available to assess their real-world impact on victim rights.
- 2) The study may rely on **government reports and legal documents** rather than firsthand victim experiences, limiting a **ground-level perspective on the effectiveness of the laws.**
- 3) Due to the **sensitive nature of crimes** (such as sexual offenses and domestic violence), direct interviews with victims may be difficult, leading to potential gaps in understanding **victim perspectives and lived experiences.**
- 4) Since the laws are newly implemented, their **long-term impact on crime rates, victim justice, and overall effectiveness** cannot be fully assessed in a short-term study.
- 5) The study may struggle to quantify the psychological impact on victims, as emotional distress, trauma, and societal stigma are difficult to measure objectively.

### **Historical Background: -**

In early societies, including the Anglo-Saxon period, justice was private, with victims responsible for seeking redress. As societies grew, enforcing accountability became harder, leading to a shift to public justice, where the state handled investigations and prosecutions. This absorbed victims' interests into state actions, shifting the system's focus to the accused, with the state acting as the victim and prioritizing prosecution and punishment.

By the late twentieth century, however, concerns about the marginalization of crime victims gained international recognition. A significant milestone in this movement was the adoption of the **UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power** in 1985. Often referred to as the "**Magna Carta**" for crime victims, this declaration established fundamental norms and minimum standards for victim protection. It also urged member states to uphold victims' rights within their legal frameworks. The declaration identified four key areas of support that crime victims require:

- i. Access to justice and fair treatment – Ensuring that victims can participate in legal proceedings and are treated with dignity and respect.
- ii. Restitution – Holding offenders accountable for restoring losses suffered by victims.
- iii. Compensation – Providing financial support to victims, either from the offender or the state, particularly when restitution is not feasible.
- iv. Assistance – Offering medical, psychological, legal, and social support services to help victims recover.

Following the UN Declaration, countries like Canada, England, the U.S., and New Zealand enacted laws to integrate victims' rights into the justice system. These measures ensured victims' needs were recognized, giving them a more active role while balancing the rights of the accused.

### **Definition of Victim: -**

Under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, Section 2(y) defines a "victim" as anyone who suffers loss or injury due to an accused's act or omission, including their guardian or legal heir. Unlike the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973, which required formal charges, BNSS broadens victim recognition, easing access to rights like compensation. However, it does not define "accused," leading to interpretation issues. The Madhya Pradesh

High Court clarified that victims of unrelated past actions do not fall under this definition.

**Role of Victim in Pre Trial Process:** - When a person becomes a victim of a crime, their initial interaction is typically with law enforcement. The way they are treated during this encounter significantly influences their perception of the entire criminal justice system. If the police handle them with empathy, fairness, and professionalism, the victim is more likely to trust and engage with the justice process.

Furthermore, Clause 4 of the United Nations Declaration emphasizes that victims must be treated with compassion, and their dignity should always be upheld. This principle underscores the importance of a victim-centered approach in law enforcement and judicial proceedings. Victims should not only feel heard but also supported throughout the process.

Additionally, it is essential that victims have immediate and unhindered access to state authorities to report crimes. A well-structured and responsive system ensures that victims can seek justice efficiently without unnecessary delays or obstacles. This accessibility strengthens public confidence in the legal system and reinforces the state's commitment to protecting its citizens.

Section 173 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, addresses the procedure for reporting and recording information related to cognizable offenses. Key provisions include:

1. *Mode of Providing Information:*

- i. Oral: Information can be given orally to the officer in charge of a police station. Such information must be reduced to writing, read over to the informant, and signed by the person giving it.
- ii. Electronic Communication: Information can also be provided via electronic communication. The officer must record this information, and the informant is required to sign it within three days. The substance of this information is then entered into a designated book as prescribed by the State Government.

2. *Special Provisions for Certain Offenses:*

- i. If the information pertains to offenses such as sexual harassment, assault, or related crimes against women (as specified in sections 64 to 79 and section

124 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023), the information should be recorded by a female police officer or any female officer.

- ii. In cases where the victim is temporarily or permanently mentally or physically disabled, the information should be recorded at the victim's residence or a place of their choice, in the presence of an interpreter or special educator if necessary. Additionally, the recording should be video-graphed, and the police officer must ensure that the victim's statement is recorded by a Magistrate as soon as possible.

3. *Zero FIR and E-FIR:*

- i. The section introduces the concept of Zero FIR, allowing any police station to register an FIR for an offense occurring outside its jurisdiction and transfer it to the appropriate station later.
- ii. It also facilitates the lodging of FIRs electronically (E-FIR), with the stipulation that the informant's signature is obtained within three days

4. *Preliminary Inquiry:*

- i. Upon receiving information about a cognizable offense punishable with imprisonment between three to seven years, the officer in charge may, with prior approval from an officer not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police, conduct a preliminary inquiry to ascertain if there exists a prima facie case. This inquiry should be completed within fourteen days.

5. *Recourse for Aggrieved Persons:*

- i. If an officer in charge refuses to record the information, the aggrieved person can send the substance of such information in writing to the Superintendent of Police. If satisfied that the information discloses the commission of a cognizable offense, the Superintendent shall either investigate the case personally or direct a subordinate officer to do so. If this does not yield results, the aggrieved person may approach the Magistrate.

These provisions aim to make the process of reporting cognizable offenses more accessible, victim-friendly, and efficient, incorporating technological advancements and ensuring sensitivity towards vulnerable victims.

In *Lalita Kumari v. Government of Uttar Pradesh*, the Supreme Court ruled that filing an FIR is mandatory for all cognizable offenses. It stressed that officers must not refuse to register an FIR and mandated strict action against non-compliant officers. If the police refuse, the

complainant can directly approach the Magistrate, who may initiate legal proceedings, ensuring access to justice.

### **Victim's Role in Investigation Process: -**

Investigation is solely the responsibility of law enforcement, with no legal obligation to involve victims. Their participation depends on investigators' discretion. Victims receive no updates until the charge sheet is filed and cannot influence the investigation.

Between FIR registration and charge sheet submission, crime victims have no formal role, despite needing support most at this stage. If police decline to investigate, they must only inform the complainant, leaving victims excluded. This exposes a major gap in victim rights.

The Court has acknowledged the right of the victim or informant to be notified in situations where the police have submitted a closure report under Section 189 of the BNSS or when the Magistrate chooses not to take cognizance of the offence based on a police report filed under Section 193 of the BNSS.

In cases where the investigating officer submits a closure report, the victim or informant has the option to file a protest petition before the Magistrate. Upon reviewing the protest petition and the available evidence, the Magistrate holds the authority to take cognizance of the case and proceed with legal action if deemed appropriate. This ensures that the victim or informant has an opportunity to challenge the closure of the case and seek justice through judicial intervention.

### **The Role of Victim in Trial: -**

#### *1. Section 193(8) of BNSS,2023 – Right to Engage an Advocate*

- i. This section provides the victim with the right to **engage an advocate of their choice** to assist the prosecution.
- ii. While the **public prosecutor** remains the primary representative of the state, the victim's lawyer can assist by:
- iii. Providing legal support to ensure the case is presented effectively.
- iv. Suggesting arguments and evidence.
- v. Keeping the victim informed about the progress of the case.

- vi. This ensures that victims have an active role in seeking justice, especially in cases where they feel the prosecution may not be adequately representing their interests.

## 2. Section 173(2) of BNSS, 2023 – Right to Receive a Copy of FIR

- i. Victims have the right to **receive a copy of the First Information Report (FIR)** free of cost.
- ii. This provision ensures:
  - a. Transparency in the legal process.
  - b. The victim is aware of the exact charges and allegations filed.
  - c. They can prepare legal remedies, including filing objections if necessary.
- iii. This is crucial for victims in ensuring they have access to official records from the beginning of the investigation.

## 3. Section 193(2) of BNSS, 2023 – Right to Be Informed About Investigation Progress

- i. This section mandates that victims be **kept informed about the progress of the investigation.**
- ii. Law enforcement authorities are required to update victims at different stages, including:
  - o Registration of FIR.
  - o Status of investigation.
  - o Filing of charge sheet.
  - o Any decision to close the case.
- iii. This provision prevents victims from being left in the dark and ensures they can take necessary legal action if they feel the case is not being investigated properly.

## 4. Section 321 of BNSS, 2023 – Right to Be Heard Before Case Withdrawal

- i. If the **government decides to withdraw a case** in which the potential punishment is **7 years or more**, the victim **must be given an opportunity to be heard.**
- ii. This means:
  - a. The prosecution cannot unilaterally withdraw charges without victim input.
  - b. The victim can present their objections before the court.
  - c. The court will consider the victim's concerns before approving the withdrawal.
- iii. This prevents arbitrary case withdrawals and ensures justice is served in serious offenses.

In *Shiv Kumar v. Hukum Chand*, the Court ruled that only a Public Prosecutor can conduct prosecutions in a Sessions Court, highlighting their vital role in the justice system. The Court

stressed that a Public Prosecutor should prioritize fairness over securing convictions and must act impartially toward the accused, the Court, and investigators. They should not withhold any legitimate legal benefits from the accused. This ruling reinforces that a Public Prosecutor is not just a state advocate but a minister of justice, ensuring a fair trial and upholding the rule of law.

### **Right to Victim Compensation: -**

In a social welfare state, the goal of any punishment is to ensure the victim's satisfaction. The idea that justice and retaliation should be distinguished and that wellbeing is the ultimate kind of justice has long prevailed in this religious country. The victim-centric approach of India's new criminal legislation has given this concept a favourable direction. Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS) places a strong emphasis on victim rehabilitation, witness protection, and victim compensation programs. In addition to being symbolic, the word "Suraksha" is used in provisions aimed at justice, fairness, and reasonableness.

As regard to victim compensation provisions, providing victims with adequate compensation for the harm they have suffered is essential to the criminal justice system's effectiveness. In order to ensure justice, victimized individuals and their families must receive compensation. In every situation, the accused is always responsible for paying for any harm done to the victim. However, the state will take on the responsibility of making the recompense in situations when the accused is poor or unable to make restitution. Compensation has several functions, such as benefiting the victims, recognizing their suffering, and—above all—serving as a deterrence to the offender.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court stated the importance of victim compensation in *Maru Ram v. Union of India*:

*"... A victim of crime cannot be a 'forgotten man' in the criminal justice system. He is the one who suffered the most. His family is devastated, especially in terms of death and physical injuries. This is in addition to factors such as loss of honour and humiliation. An honour that is lost or a life lost cannot be regained but then the currency compensation will at least give some comfort."*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>(1981) 1 SCC 107

*Legal framework:*

Although it is frequently criticized for being insufficient and badly executed, the Indian legal system offers a number of laws and measures for victim compensation. The following are the main legal provisions:

- i. The Indian Constitution of 1950: The Indian Constitution grants the courts the authority to provide victims with fair compensation. Compensation for victims is made possible by a number of laws and procedures, especially when there has been crime, violence, or injustice. The Supreme Court held in *Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra v. State of U.P.* that the right to life encompasses the right to restitution for social and environmental harm.
- ii. The payment of compensation to victims is covered in Sections 395 and 396 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. In situations when the criminal is found guilty, Section 395 permits courts to order compensation, while Section 396 mandates that state governments set up victim compensation programs. Regarding victim treatment, Section 397 states that all hospitals must offer free medical care or first assistance to victims.
- iii. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023: The BNS does not specifically address victim compensation, even though it lists a number of criminal acts and the associated penalties. Nonetheless, it affects how judges handle the question of reparation in criminal situations.
- iv. Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab, Delhi, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and many other Indian states have created victim compensation programs. The most well-known of these is the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) program, which aims to compensate the victim.

*Victim Compensation under Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023-*

- i. Right to be compensated by the accused (section 395) -

When rendering a decision, the court may mandate that all or a portion of the fine be used to compensate the victim, if such compensation is due in a civil court, or to compensate the victim who is entitled to damages from the person who was sentenced under the Fatal Accidents Act of 1855. Additionally, when stolen goods are returned to its rightful owners, compensation is given to the legitimate buyer. Under section 395 of BNSS, a court may, in its decision, require the accused to compensate the victim with a sum that may be set in the order when it imposes a penalty that does not include a fine.

ii. Victim Compensation Scheme by the State Government (section 396) -

The Ministry of Home Affairs started this program to give victims of violent crimes instant assistance. For victims or their families, the program offers monetary compensation that can be used to pay for funeral costs, medical bills, rehabilitation costs, and lost wages. Through an update, this clause was introduced to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973; nevertheless, Section 396 of the new BNSS now addresses the Victim Compensation Scheme.

According to the above section, a plan for allocating funds for compensation to victims of loss or damage who need rehabilitation must be prepared by the State Government in coordination with the Central Government. The District Legal Service Authority or the State Legal Service Authority, as the case may be, will determine the amount of compensation once the Court recommends it to the victim. Additionally, the trial court may suggest compensation if it determines that the amount granted under section 395 is insufficient for the victim's rehabilitation or if the victim must be rehabilitated following an acquittal or discharge.

In cases when the accused cannot be located or recognized and no trial is held, the victim may also apply for compensation from the State or the District Legal Services Authority. Within two months of receiving such an application, the State or the District Legal Services Authority must conduct an investigation and provide appropriate compensation. Additionally, the State or the District Legal Services Authority may mandate that the victim get prompt first-aid facilities or medical benefits at no expense to them based on the certificate provided by the police station's officer in charge or the relevant magistrate. In accordance with Sections 65, 70, and subsection (1) of Section 124 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, the victim will also receive the compensation that is due (Section 357A, 367B CrPC).

iii. Right to Immediate Medical Aid under section 397 of BNSS, 2023-

Any victim of an offense covered by section 64, section 65, section 66, section 67, section 68, section 70, section 71, or sub-section (1) of section 124 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, or by sections 4, 6, 8, or 10 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, must receive first aid or medical treatment immediately and without charge from all hospitals, whether public or private. They must also notify the police of such incidents right away. Provision 357C of the CrPC previously addressed this provision.

In a judgment dated 12.10.2017, the Hon. Supreme Court of India ordered NALSA to form a committee to create a model victim compensation plan for survivors of acid attacks and sexual offenses in the case of *Nipun Saxena and Others vs. Union of India and others*. The aforementioned plan was then created in accordance with that. Although nothing should be

removed from the plan, the Hon. Supreme Court noted that this does not stop state governments and administrations of Union Territories from expanding it.

The plan intends to establish a fund called the "**WOMEN VICTIMS COMPENSATION FUND**," run by the Hon'ble State Legal Services Authority, from which the victims or their dependents will receive the compensation amount determined by the Hon'ble State Legal Services Authority or District Legal Services Authority.

The following will be included in the "Women Victims Compensation Fund":

- i. Contributions from the Central Victim Compensation Fund (CVCF) Scheme, 2015.
- ii. Allocation of funds to SLSA in the form of grants-in-aid
- iii. Any costs imposed by a criminal or civil tribunal are paid into this fund.
- iv. The sum of money obtained from the defendant in accordance with Scheme section 14;
- v. Contributions from domestic, foreign, philanthropic, and charitable institutions, organizations, and individuals that have been approved by the state or federal government.
- vi. Corporate Social Responsibility contributions made by businesses.

A woman victim or her dependents, if relevant, may be entitled for compensation under a number of different schemes. However, while determining the amount in this future application, the compensation she obtained under the other programs will be taken into consideration. The plan lays out a timeline for paying victims' compensation, specifying the lowest and highest amount that can be awarded under the plan.

#### *Determining factors for compensation to the victims-*

When determining compensation, the Honourable State Legal Services Authority or District Legal Services Authority may take into account the following factors:

- (1) The seriousness of the crime and the extent of the victim's physical or mental harm or injury;
- (2) The cost of medical care for the victim's physical and/or mental health, including counselling, funeral expenses, and travel during the investigation, inquiry, or trial;
- (3) Loss of educational opportunities as a result of the crime, including missed classes or college days due to mental trauma, physical harm, medical treatment, the investigation and trial of the crime, or any other cause;
- (4) Loss of work owing to the offense, including absences from work for physical harm, emotional distress, medical care, the investigation and trial of the offense, or any other

cause;

- (5) The victim's, if any, relationship to the perpetrator;
- (6) whether there was a single, isolated instance of abuse or if it happened repeatedly;
- (7) Whether the victim became pregnant as a result of the offense, whether she had to have her pregnancy terminated medically (MTP), and whether she gave birth to a child and the kid's rehabilitation needs;
- (8) Whether the victim became infected with an STD as a result of the offense;
- (9) Whether the victim became infected with HIV as a result of the offense;
- (10) Any disability the victim experienced as a result of the offense; and
- (11) In the event of death, the deceased's age, monthly income, number of dependents, life expectancy, chances for future advancement or growth, etc.
- (12) Or any additional element that the authorities deem appropriate and adequate.

The procedure

#### *Role of Judiciary in Victim Compensation-*

In *Karan vs State*, The Delhi High Court has developed a Victim Impact Report formula to calculate the victim's compensation amount and the accused's ability to pay. Following a summary investigation, the Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLISA) is required to file the victim impact report in each criminal case. Following the accused's conviction, the trial court will order the accused to submit an affidavit detailing his assets and income within ten years of the victim's crime, the costs of the prosecution, and his ability to pay. The Court will use Section 357-A of the Cr. P.C. (now, 396 BNSS) to recommend the case to DSLISA in order to award compensation from the Victim Compensation Fund under the Delhi Victims Compensation Scheme, 2018 if a summary investigation is carried out to determine the impact of the accused's inability to pay the compensation or if the compensation granted against them is insufficient for the victim's rehabilitation.

The Supreme Court held in *Rajendra Bhagwanji Umraniya v. State of Gujarat* that the offender's sentence should not be lowered in light of victim compensation under Section 357 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). The Court stressed that victim compensation is separate from the punitive measures imposed on the convicted party and is intended to help the victim get back on their feet.

The Supreme Court ruled in *Saibaj Noor Mohammad Shaikh v. State of Maharashtra*, that sessions courts must provide victims with compensation when deciding cases involving physical harm to women and children. Regardless of whether the accused is found guilty or

not, the Court emphasized that such compensation should be decided based on the facts and evidence of the case.

### **Right of the Victim to appeal under BNSS: -**

In criminal processes, victims are given special rights to appeal under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023. The following situations are specifically listed in Section 413 of the BNSS as giving a victim the right to challenge court orders:

- i. **Accusation of the accused:** The victim may appeal the court's decision if the accused is found not guilty.
- ii. **Conviction for a lower offence:** The victim has the opportunity to appeal if the accused is found guilty of a lesser offence than the one for which they were initially charged. The victim has the right to request a re-evaluation if the court determines that the compensation is insufficient. Such appeals ought to be submitted to the court that typically hears appeals against the conviction order of the relevant court.

In accordance with Section 2(y) of the BNSS, this clause defines a "victim" as any anyone who has been harmed or lost something as a result of the accused's actions or inaction, as well as their guardian or legal heir. Through the incorporation of these rights, the BNSS strengthens victims' participation in the criminal justice process and guarantees them access to justice beyond the original trial.

### **Suggestions and Conclusion: -**

The **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023**, introduces several reforms aimed at enhancing victim rights within India's criminal justice system. Building upon previous discussions, here are specific suggestions to further strengthen these rights under the BNSS framework:

#### **1. Enhance Access to Information**

- i. **Provide Comprehensive Case Updates:** While Section 173(2) of the BNSS ensures victims receive a copy of the First Information Report (FIR) free of cost, implementing a system for regular, detailed updates on case progress can further empower victims. This includes timely notifications about investigation developments, court dates, and outcomes.

- ii. Establish Victim Liaison Officers: Appoint dedicated officers to serve as consistent points of contact for victims, guiding them through legal processes and ensuring they understand their rights and the status of their cases.
2. *Strengthen Compensation and Rehabilitation Mechanisms*
    - i. Implement Comprehensive Rehabilitation Programs: Beyond the financial compensation outlined in Section 396, develop programs offering psychological counseling, medical care, and vocational training to support victims' holistic recovery.
    - ii. Ensure Timely Disbursement of Compensation: Streamline procedures to expedite the assessment and distribution of compensation, minimizing bureaucratic delays that can hinder victims' recovery processes.
  3. *Facilitate Victim Participation in Legal Proceedings*
    - i. Guarantee the Right to Be Heard: Ensure that victims have opportunities to present their perspectives during critical stages, such as bail hearings and sentencing, reinforcing their role in the justice process.
    - ii. Provide Legal Representation: Offer access to legal counsel for victims, particularly those from marginalized communities, to navigate the complexities of the legal system effectively.
  4. *Leverage Technology for Victim Support*
    - i. Develop Online Platforms for E-FIR Registration: Expand and regulate the use of electronic FIR registrations to make reporting crimes more accessible, especially for individuals in remote areas or those hesitant to visit police stations.
    - ii. Create Digital Portals for Case Tracking: Implement secure online systems where victims can track the status of their cases, access relevant documents, and receive updates, enhancing transparency and reducing anxiety associated with uncertainty.
  5. *Provide Training for Law Enforcement and Judicial Personnel*
    - i. Conduct Sensitivity Training: Regularly train police officers, prosecutors, and judges on handling cases with empathy and understanding, particularly those involving trauma, to improve interactions with victims.
    - ii. Educate on Victim Rights: Ensure that all personnel within the criminal justice system are well-versed in the provisions of the BNSS related to victim rights, promoting consistent and fair application of the law.

To sum up, the BNSS signifies a revolutionary change in India's criminal justice system toward one that is more victim-centric. By incorporating these clauses, the BNSS hopes to promote a

more responsive and equitable legal system by guaranteeing that victims are informed, assisted, and actively participated throughout the legal process. By implementing these measures, the BNSS can more effectively uphold and advance the rights of victims, fostering a justice system that is responsive, compassionate, and equitable.

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