**Submission to Special Parliamentary Committee on Gender-Based Violence Inquiry**

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[Redacted]

My daughter will never be safe again in PNG. The perpetrator is supported by his father and his father's political supporters and their clansmen. Even I am suppressed from speaking up and standing up for my daughter's rights for fear of my own life.

For 10 years I went to the police to seek assistance but I never got any help.

My daughter was saved by some angels, who used their own resources to take my daughter out of danger to safety.

One angel is still putting her head up to save victims without any support from the Govt. [redacted]

The Govt must look at supporting people like [redacted]. Establish who they are and support them. They are working undercover using their own resources, PLEASE support them. I can give you their names. My daughter is not the first that they've saved.

Also, I wish to comment about our justice system. I understand that the maximum penalty for a GBV perpetrator is only 3 years. For me, that is very very very unfair. The minimum penalty must be increased to 5 years and maximum 15 years imprisonment and there shouldn't be a good behaviour bond even for a first time offender. GBV violence must be treated as attempted murder. We must have zero tolerance of GBV related violence be it physical, emotional, phsycological or spiritual.

I would like to see facilities/avenues set up in villages and settlements throughout PNG as the first point of contact where women can easily access assistance.

I am a victim who has suffered nearly 40 years of GBV and I am speaking from experience.

The new approach should be to empower women to be rehabilitated mentality to have the will power to stand up and leave. The sooner it's done, the easier it will be for the victim.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts.