

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 427/2022

BACHPAN BACHAO ANDOLAN

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

IA No. 205442/2023 - APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING TYPED DOCUMENTS

IA No. 103610/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS

IA No. 137318/2023 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS

IA No. 136232/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA No. 120913/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA No. 205367/2023 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA No. 83391/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA No. 204902/2023 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA No. 137319/2023 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA No. 81311/2023 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA No. 205443/2023 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA No. 205441/2023 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION

IA No. 205366/2023 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES

IA No. 71717/2024 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES

IA No. 81309/2023 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES

Date : 01-12-2025 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE B.V. NAGARATHNA

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE K.V. VISWANATHAN

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Ms. Surabhi Katyal, Adv.
Ms. Taruna Panwar, Adv.
Ms. Surpreet Kaur, Adv.

For Respondent(s) :Mrs. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
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Mr. Siddharth Dharmadhikari, Adv.

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Ms. Mrinal Mazumdar, Adv.

Ms. Indira Bhakar, Adv.

Mr. Mukesh K Verma, Adv.

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Jadhaw Vishal, Adv.
Ram Sankar, Adv.
Shubham Shukla, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

Learned senior counsel appearing for the petitioner submitted that certain States/Union Territories have been very casual in their approach in the matter of appointment of Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) at each police station and for apportioning funds

for their expenses.

It is stated at the Bar that the States/Union Territories (UTs) of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Manipur and Jammu and Kashmir have not yet implemented the PLVs Scheme at each police station in order to assist in cases of offences against children.

When we queried the learned counsel for these States, they stated that they would seek further instructions in the matter and revert. There is no representation on behalf of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

We also find that in other States, the Scheme of PLVs at each police station is either not notified or implemented effectively as funds have not been made available for the PLVs to assist the child victims in the police station.

Learned counsel appearing for the NALSA submitted that the State Schemes have to be notified and implemented by apportioning funds for the purpose of paying for the expenses of the PLVs.

In the circumstances, we find that it is necessary to adjourn the matter so as to enable the learned counsel for the States/UTs to seek up-to-date instructions in the matter and inform this Court as to, whether, the Scheme of PLVs has been notified and if so, the volunteers have been empanelled and it is working effectively in the States as well as in the Union Territories.

In the event, the PLVs at each police station, as far as practicable, in the respective States and Union Territories have not yet been empanelled and sufficient funds are not apportioned for the said purpose, the Chief Secretaries of the respective States/Union Territories shall remain present before this Court on

the next date of hearing through Video Conferencing facility.

Learned senior counsel for the petitioner has submitted the following chart indicating the number of PLVs, deployed in the police stations in the States/Union Territories may be taken note of.

Status of PLVs (NALSA SR dated 29.11.2025)

Particulars	Total No. of Police Station	No of Police Station where PLVs heave been deployed	No. of Police stations where PLVs have not been deployed
Deployment pending due to lack of funds/scheme approval (5 States)			
Andhra Pradesh	919	42	877
Manipur	90	1	89
Odisha	612	30	582
Delhi	204	50	154
Tamil Nadu (20.10.2024)	1577	0	0
Deployment in remaining under process (7 States)			
Arunachal Pradesh	109	20	89
Assam	327	320	7
Gujarat	718	345	373
Jharkhand	525	516	9
Karnataka	1099	50	1049
Rajasthan	962	539	423
Mizoram (20.10.2024)	37	0	37
No deployment/scheme not notified (2 States)			
Bihar	1324	0	1324
Haryana	302	0	302
Deployment in remaining impacted by Geographical hindrances (6 States)			
Chattisgarh	477	415	62
Maharashtra	1226	283	709
Nagaland	84	25	59
Uttarakhand	166	165	1
Andaman & Nicobar Island	21	12	9
Lakshadweep	9	2	7
Shortage of PLVs (3 States)			
Goa	31	24	7
Tripura	81	72	9
West Bengal	581	471	110
PLVs visit police stations on nee basis/call rotational basis (7 State)			
Himachal Pradesh	169	138	31
Jammu & Kashmir	213	169	44
Kerala	547	84	0
Madhya Pradesh	1122	608	514
Punjab	418	338	80

Uttar Pradesh	1602	1037	565
Telangana (20.10.2025)	773	85	688
Not deployed in special cells (Traffic, PCR , Food etc) (1 state)			
Puducherry	53	31	0
PLVs deployed in all police stations (5 States)			
Ladakh	11	11	0
Chandigarh (20.10.2024)	16	16	0
Meghalaya (20.10.2024)	76	76	0
Sikkim (20.10.2024)	29	29	0
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (20.10.2024)	5&7 (resp.)	5&7 (resp.)	0

Learned counsel appearing for the respective States/Union Territories to verify this information and to take steps in the event the PLVs have not yet been empanelled and deployed in the police stations bearing in mind the practical aspects, such as the location of the police station etc.

Learned senior counsel for the petitioner next brought to our notice that the number of support persons who have been appointed under Section 39 of the POCSO Act are very minimal, as is evident from the following chart. It was submitted that directions may be issued to the States/Union Territories to appoint adequate number of support persons so that they are able to assist the victim under the POCSO Act in order to ensure that the victim is supported throughout the trial of the case and even prior thereto and for the purpose of rehabilitation thereafter -

Number of Support Persons required V/s Appointed basis existing POCSO Pendency

S. No	State	Pending POCSO Cases (as per PIB release dated 09.02.2024) – as of Dec'	Support persons required as per NCPCR Guidelines (Clause 3.2.3- VIII)	Appointed Support persons (as per NCPCR affidavit dated 24.10.2024)	As per Affidavit/Status report dated filed by States/NCPCR

		23		and Affidavits filed by respective States)	
			20		
1.	A&N Islands	NA	NA	26	As per affidavit filed by NCPCR on 24.10.2024
2.	Andhra Pradesh	7231	361	-	
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	NA	NA	-	
4.	Assam	5207	260	60	
5.	Chandigarh	203	10	22	
6.	Bihar	17716	885	75	As per State's affidavit dated - 17.02.2025
7.	Chhattisgarh	2264	113	113	As per State's affidavit dated - 16.05.2025
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	NA	NA	11	As per affidavit filed by NCPCR on 24.10.2024
9.	Delhi	3810	190	37	
10.	Goa	156	7	-	
11.	Gujarat	6338	316	5	
12.	Haryana	4199	209	104	
13.	Himachal Pradesh	834	41	-	
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	453	22	17	
15.	Jharkhand	4486	224	9	As per State's affidavit dated - 15.02.2025
16.	Karnataka	5414	270	115	
17.	Kerala	7401	370	959	As per State's affidavit dated - 08.04.2025
18.	Ladakh	NA	NA	6	As per affidavit filed by NCPCR on 24.10.2024
19.	Lakshadweep	NA	NA	-	
20.					
21.	Maharashtra	4355	217	52	
22.	Manipur	94	4	-	As per State's affidavit dated - 27.05.2025
23.	Madhya Pradesh	10193	509	407	

24.	Meghalaya	1061	53	62	As per State's affidavit dated - 08.04.2025
25.	Rajasthan	6122	306	109	As per State's affidavit dated- 04.04.2025
26.	Mirozam	89	4	28	As per affidavit filed by NCPCR on 24.10.2024
27.	Nagaland	51	2	4	
28.	Odisha	11060	553	-	
29.	Puducherry	221	11	-	
30.	Punjab	1438	71	17	
31.	Sikkim	NA	NA	11	
32.	Tamil Nadu	4440	222	47	
33.	Telangana	8463	423	6	
34.	Tripura	242	12	33	
35.	Uttarakhand	908	45	20	
36.	West Bengal	2948	147	385	As per State's affidavit dated - 17.04.2025
37.	Uttar Pradesh	84778	4238	484	As per State's affidavit dated - 01.04.2025
Total	Total	202175	10095	3224	

We direct the concerned States/Union Territories to re-assess the number of pending cases under the POCSO Act, the requirement of support persons and the steps to be taken for their appointment. The necessary affidavits in this regard shall be filed by the next date of hearing.

We find that there is a dearth of empanelment of support persons which is a requisite under Section 39 of the POCSO Act. In this regard, we find that the State/Union Territories' Legal Services Authority can take steps for empanelment of support persons in each district.

The aforesaid direction is in addition to any empanelment of

support persons that may have already been made by the State Governments.

The Member Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority would consult the Presiding Officers of the Special Courts established under the POCSO Act for the purpose of providing support persons to a child victim. In the event a support person has not been provided to a child victim, the Special Court could provide a support person for the assistance of the victim.

The Member Secretary of the State Legal Services Authority to also consult the Secretary, Department of Women and Child in each of the States in this regard.

The States/Union Territories shall also file their affidavits in this regard.

Learned counsel for the NALSA to communicate a copy of this order to all the Member Secretaries of the State Legal Services Authority for further implementation of the same.

List on 10.02.2026.

(NEETU SACHDEVA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(DIVYA BABBAR)
COURT MASTER (NSH)