

PANEL ON SECURITY AND PANEL ON WELFARE SERVICES

**Statistics of marital rape and battered spouse cases
after the victims have filed for divorce**

Purpose

This paper provides the statistics of marital rape and battered spouse cases after the victims have filed for divorce as at 3 May 2004, collected by the Social Welfare Department (SWD).

Background

2. At the joint meeting of the Panel on Security and Panel on Welfare Services held on 30 April 2004, Members asked for the statistics on marital rape and battered spouse cases after the victims have filed for divorce in the past three years.

SWD's Statistics

3. SWD does not have statistics on marital rape and battered spouse cases involving victims who have filed for divorce in the past three years. Arising from the request made by the Joint Panel, SWD has assessed its active cases in the Family and Child Protective Services Units as at 3 May 2004 and collected statistics. It is found that on that day there was no record of marital rape cases involving victims who were still living with the battering spouse after they have filed for divorce.

4. As for battered spouse cases having filed for divorce, there are 227 such cases. Out of these cases, 41 are still living with the batterers under the same housing units (31 cases are residing in public housing estates (PHEs) and 10 cases are living in private properties).

5. Actually, different types of housing assistance (such as conditional tenancy) are available to battered spouses, with or without

dependent children, on divorce proceedings in resolving their genuine and imminent housing problems. Of the 41 cases mentioned in paragraph 4 above, four were recommended for housing assistance after they had filed for divorce and they are now awaiting for allocation of PHE units. Besides, two other applications of housing assistance are being processed. All these six cases declined to consider alternative accommodation arrangement (such as refuge centres for women and financial assistance for renting abode in the private sector) while awaiting allocation of PHE units. As regards the remaining 35 cases, despite the offer of housing assistance or other support (such as conditional tenancy, financial assistance for renting private accommodation etc.), the victims were unwilling to move out from their present abode. Nevertheless, the concerned social workers would closely keep in view the conditions and housing needs of the victims and their family members, and would arrange appropriate service whenever necessary.

Advice Sought

6. Members are invited to note paragraphs 3-5 above.

Social Welfare Department
May 2004