न्याय सब के लिए

ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL

NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY



NALSA (SPRUHA) SCHEME, 2025

Supporting Potential and Resilience of the Unseen, Held-back and Affected

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B. R. GAVAI
CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

MESSAGE

Every wound leaves a shadow, but every shadow can carry a seed of resilience.
SPRUHA is that seed.

In the architecture of justice, much attention is rightly given to the accused and the victim. Yet, there are others who remain in the shadows of the law's gaze — the mother whose son is imprisoned, the child who loses a parent to crime, the widow who must navigate stigma and survival in equal measure. These lives are marked not by their own choices, but by the weight of circumstances they did not create. They are the secondary victims, bearing wounds that are often invisible to law and society alike.

The launch of the NALSA SPRUHA (Supporting Potential and Resilience of the Unseen, Held-back and Affected) Scheme, 2025 is therefore not only a policy intervention, but a moral recognition of this unseen suffering. It is a reminder that justice must be wide enough to hold both the pain of those who have been wronged and the resilience of those left behind by incarceration.

When we speak of resilience, it is not mere endurance. It is the courage of the families who keep a household alive despite sudden loss; the quiet strength of dependents who continue to hope in the face of uncertainties. SPRUHA seeks to nurture that resilience, transforming vulnerability into dignity, and silence into voice.

The Constitution of India enjoins us to secure, social, economic, and political justice, to all. But justice cannot remain confined to courtrooms or case files. It must flow into homes, into schools, into the everyday lives of those most affected by crime and incarceration. To acknowledge their pain, to extend legal and social support, is to reaffirm that no citizen is beyond the promise of dignity.

I commend NALSA for conceiving this visionary scheme, and for recognising that the true test of justice is not only in the verdicts we pronounce, but in the lives we heal. May SPRUHA serve as a bridge, from exclusion to inclusion, from silence to voice, from shadows to strength.

(B.R. Gavai)

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Surya Kant
Judge, Supreme Court of India
&
Executive Chairman,
National Legal Services Authority

MESSAGE

The philosophy of our Constitution recognises that justice is not adversarial alone, but also restorative and compassionate. It envisions a society where the dignity of every individual is respected, and the vulnerable are not abandoned in silence. Justice, as understood in our constitutional framework, extends beyond courts and verdicts; it is about creating a social order where those affected by adversity, whether by crime or by incarceration, are given equal care, support, and opportunity to rebuild their lives.

Among the most overlooked groups are families of incarcerated individuals and dependents of victims of crime. On the surface, these two groups may appear to stand on opposite sides of justice—one associated with the accused and the other with the wronged. Yet, in reality, both endure immense suffering through no fault of their own. When a family member is imprisoned, dependents often face stigma, financial hardship, and emotional pain. Likewise, families of victims grapple with trauma, dislocation, and hardship in navigating life after the crime. Although their circumstances differ, the burdens they carry are strikingly similar, including the loss of livelihood, interrupted education, denial of welfare, social isolation, and diminution of dignity.

It is this shared suffering that **NALSA SPRUHA (Supporting Potential and Resilience of the Unseen, Held-back and Affected) Scheme, 2025** seeks to address. SPRUHA brings within a single framework the dependents of prisoners and the dependents of victims, recognising them not as adversaries but as vulnerable groups equally deserving of compassion and support. By doing so, it achieves a delicate balance, acknowledging that justice cannot be one-sided, but must extend to all those who suffer as a consequence of crime and incarceration.

SPRUHA operationalises this vision through a comprehensive approach: early identification of dependents, free legal aid and assistance, psycho-social counselling, educational continuity for children, livelihood support, shelter for the abandoned, and reintegration measures for families and communities. In embodying the spirit of **Article 39A**, which mandates equal justice and free legal aid, the scheme affirms that the promise of justice does not distinguish between categories but stands equally with every citizen who suffers undeserved hardship.

The success of this initiative rests on the strength of collective will and shared responsibility. When implemented with compassion and commitment, SPRUHA has the potential to become a milestone in India's pursuit of social justice, ensuring that every hardship is recognised and every family finds the support they deserve. I extend my sincere appreciation to the team at NALSA for conceiving and bringing to life this important initiative, and I am confident that their efforts will inspire all stakeholders to work together in realising its vision.

[Surya Kant]

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सत्यमेव जयते

राष्ट्रीय विधिक सेवा प्राधिकरण
NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
(Constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987)



भरत पाराशर
BHARAT PARASHAR
(Delhi Higher Judicial Service)
सदस्य सचिव
MEMBER SECRETARY

Preface

It is with great pride that we unveil the NALSA SPRUHA (Supporting Potential and Resilience of the Unseen, Held-back and Affected) Scheme, 2025, under the leadership of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, Patron-in-Chief, NALSA and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Executive Chairman, NALSA. This initiative has been formulated by the NALSA to ensure that the dependents of incarcerated individuals as well as victims of crime receive timely, structured, and meaningful support that acknowledges the layered hardships of stigma, disruption, and vulnerability in their lives.

By institutionalising this framework, the scheme ensures that the concerns of families affected by incarceration and crime are not treated as peripheral, but as central to the vision of access to justice. It is designed to create enduring pathways of support, where Legal Services Institutions do not merely intervene in times of crisis, but remain consistent companions in rebuilding lives. In doing so, the Scheme underscores NALSA's commitment to transform the idea of legal aid into a comprehensive mechanism of protection, empowerment, and resilience.

The Scheme does not proceed on the assumption that legal aid is confined to litigation alone. Instead, it recognises that the challenges faced by families of prisoners and victims extend far beyond the courtroom, encompassing issues of livelihood, education, healthcare, social stigma, and psychological trauma. Their difficulties are compounded by limited awareness, procedural complexity, and at times, systemic exclusion. The Scheme therefore seeks to create an integrated support mechanism that not only delivers legal assistance but also bridges critical social and institutional gaps.

The Scheme envisions a framework of support that is aligned with the lived circumstances of affected families, combining legal aid with psycho-social care, economic rehabilitation, educational continuity, and reintegration into society. To achieve this, SPRUHA seeks to sensitise and equip Legal Services Institutions, empanelled lawyers, and Para Legal Volunteers to respond effectively to the distinct vulnerabilities of dependents of prisoners and victims of crime.

The SPRUHA Scheme is, thus, not merely a welfare measure, it is a reflection of India's enduring commitment to justice that is inclusive and compassionate. It carries forward the principle that access to justice must accompany vulnerability, not elude it. In recognising and addressing the distinct needs of families left behind by crime and incarceration, this initiative reaffirms that the nation's responsibility lies not only in protecting rights in law, but in building systems that restore dignity, stability, and hope.

(Bharat Parashar)

न्याय सब के लिए
ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL

Table of CONTENTS

S.NO.	TITLE	PAGE NO.
1.	**INTRODUCTION**	01
2.	**OBJECTIVES**	03
3.	**TARGET BENEFICIARIES & SCOPE**	03
4.	**INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT** A. LEGAL ASSISTANCE B. PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT C. EDUCATION AND CHILD WELFARE D. ECONOMIC AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT E. SHELTER SUPPORT F. RESETTLEMENT AND COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION	04
5.	**OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK** A. IDENTIFICATION OF DEPENDENTS B. PROCESSING OF INTERACTION SHEETS C. DATA COMPILATION AND REPORTING MECHANISM D. PRIVACY AND CONSENT	07
6.	**ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE SCHEME**	10
7.	**INTER DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES**	10
8.	**ORIENTATION, AWARENESS AND SENSITISATION**	10
9.	**FINANCIAL OUTLAY**	10
10.	**SAVINGS CLAUSE**	11
11.	**CONCLUSION**	11
	REPORTING FORMATS (FORM A to C)	12-14

न्याय सब के लिए
ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL

NALSA SPRUHA (Supporting Potential and Resilience of the Unseen, Held-back and Affected) Scheme, 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

Recognizing the invisible yet profound impact that incarceration and violent crimes have on the dependents left behind, **NALSA SPRUHA *(Supporting Potential and Resilience of the Unseen, Held-back and Affected)* Scheme, 2025** (hereinafter referred to as "the Scheme") emerges as a comprehensive nationwide initiative under the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). When a person is incarcerated or when an individual becomes a victim of crime, their families often face severe emotional, social, and financial hardships. Dependents such as spouse, children, parents, and other family members may face social stigma, lose their primary financial support or experience difficulties to pursue education, healthcare, and access to welfare benefits. They face challenges while navigating complex legal and/or administrative systems, which get further exacerbated by language barriers faced by those from rural backgrounds and different states. Providing structured legal and welfare assistance becomes essential to safeguard their rights, mitigate the collateral consequences of crime and incarceration, and create an environment that supports both rehabilitation and resilience.

In recognition of the challenges faced by the families of incarcerated individuals, particularly convicts with a remaining period of imprisonment of six months or more and undertrial prisoners (hereinafter referred to as "UTPs") detained continuously for one year or more, NALSA had earlier undertaken a *Campaign for Legal Assistance to the Family Members of Prisoners, 2019.* This initiative was later taken note of by the High Court of Delhi in ***Court on its Own Motion v. Union of India & Ors.***, *W.P.(C) 1481/2015 vide order dated 10.10.2023,* where the Hon'ble Court observed that the dependents of prisoners remain an unacknowledged group, deeply affected by incarceration, and emphasised the need for a nationwide scheme to address their legal, social, and welfare needs. The Court, while appreciating NALSA's efforts, directed that such campaigns be expanded and institutionalized so that the families of incarcerated persons across the country could receive systemic support. Simultaneously, NALSA has also been facilitating persons under Victim Compensation Schemes notified by States and Union territories under Section 396 of Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (hereinafter referred to as "BNSS")/Section 357A of Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 (hereinafter referred to as "CrPC") ensuring that victims of crime and their dependents are able to access financial aid and rehabilitation.

Grounded in constitutional guarantees enshrined in Article 14[1], Article 21[2], Article 38[3], and Article 41[4] , along with statutory provisions under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, NALSA (SPRUHA) Scheme, 2025 emerges as a countrywide framework. The Scheme aligns with international obligations, including the UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime (1985), which calls on States to support victims and their dependents, and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), which emphasises that a child's best interests be prioritized when a parent is imprisoned. Dependents of victims of crime fall within the realm of secondary victimisation, as the pain of crime ripples outward in the form of prolonged trauma, financial hardship, and social stigma. Families often struggle with disrupted livelihoods, dislocation from social networks, and denial of opportunities. For many, particularly those from disadvantaged and marginalised backgrounds, problems like language barriers, lack of awareness and legal literacy, the complexity of administrative systems create further obstacles in accessing welfare programmes, compensation, and justice. This underscores the need for a dedicated framework that safeguards the rights and well-being of dependents, ensuring they are not left to shoulder the consequences of crime and incarceration in silence. The Scheme acknowledges that the deprivation and trauma faced by the dependents are not peripheral concerns but central to any just and inclusive legal framework.

Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 lays down the categories of persons entitled to free legal services, including members of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women, children, persons in custody, and those with disabilities or insufficient means. The Scheme not only aligns with this statutory mandate, but also moves beyond a narrow reading of entitlements by extending holistic legal, psycho-social, educational and financial support to reintegrate the dependents of both incarcerated persons and victims of crime. In doing so, it operationalises the spirit of

[1]Equality before law-The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.

[2]Protection of life and personal liberty—No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.

[3]State to secure a social order for the promotion of welfare of the people—(1) The State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may a social order in which justice, social, economic and political, shall inform all the institutions of the national life. (2) The State shall, in particular, strive to minimise the inequalities in income, and endeavour to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities, not only amongst individuals but also amongst groups of people residing in different areas or engaged in different vocations.

[4]Right to work, to education and to public assistance in certain cases—The State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want.

the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, ensuring that vulnerable dependents are not only granted access to justice but are also enabled to reclaim dignity, equality, and meaningful participation in society. Thus, NALSA SPRUHA *(Supporting Potential and Resilience of the Unseen, Held-back and Affected)* Scheme, 2025 aims to ensure that no family is left to suffer in silence when a breadwinner is incarcerated or lost to crime, by providing legal aid, counselling, education, support and other assistance under one comprehensive framework.

2. OBJECTIVES

i. To provide multi-dimensional support like integrated legal, psychological, educational, financial and social assistance to the dependents of incarcerated persons and victims of crime.

ii. Facilitate continuity in education, healthcare and livelihood to the dependents.

iii. Bridge gaps in existing welfare schemes and create targeted interventions.

iv. Raise awareness among Legal Services Institution's (hereinafter referred to as "LSI") workforce and stakeholders/communities about the rights and needs of families of incarcerated persons and victims of crimes, so as to destigmatise and encourage them to seek help.

3. TARGET BENEFICIARIES & SCOPE OF THE SCHEME

A. For the purpose of this Scheme, the term "dependent" shall include the dependents of incarcerated persons as well as the dependents of victims of crime, meaning any person substantially and wholly dependent on the incarcerated person or the victim of crime financially, medically, emotionally, or for care and support and whose well-being is adversely affected by such incarceration or crime. The dependent of such incarcerated person or victims of crime may include:

   a. Elderly parents or guardians (senior citizens),
   b. Women: wife, mother, and unmarried daughter,
   c. Minor children requiring care and education,
   d. Persons with Disabilities requiring additional care and support,
   e. Spouse.

B. The dependents who qualify under the categories enumerated under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 shall be entitled to receive free legal services in accordance with the said provision.

   Those dependents who are not otherwise covered within the ambit of Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, shall have access to legal advice and

assistance through a panel of pro-bono lawyers of the concerned legal services authority.

C. The Scheme shall provide a comprehensive range of legal services to ensure that the dependents of incarcerated persons as well as the dependents of victims of crime, receive integrated legal, institutional, psycho-social, educational, economic, and reintegration support.

4. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

A. LEGAL ASSISTANCE

The Scheme ensures that dependents of incarcerated persons and victims of crime receive timely legal assistance, counselling, and access to welfare entitlements. It mobilizes LSIs and trained PLVs to provide free legal aid, ensuring that justice, welfare, and social security reaches the dependents.

i. Free legal services, aid, assistance, counselling, and facilitation of access to welfare entitlements shall be provided to the dependents through the Legal Services Institutions, with eligibility anchored in Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

ii. Legal assistance to beneficiaries shall include assistance to access legal aid such as benefits under Victim Compensation Schemes, registration of First Information Reports (FIRs), trial proceedings, prosecution support, protection orders.

iii. Legal Aid Lawyers and trained PLVs will render their legal services and assistance as per their mandate prescribed under the National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010 and NALSA Scheme on PLV, 2011. They shall assist the dependent in applying for legal services or provide assistance through the online application portals/mobile-based apps, wherein applicants can track their case status and access legal information.

iv. If any issue is to be taken up with any concerned department of the Government, then the family member shall be assisted for initiation of process or further follow-up. This may include documentation to avail any benefit such as Aadhaar card, ration card, BPL card, voter I-card, PAN card, caste certificate, income certificate, birth/death certificate, disability certificate etc.

v. There may be issues which require intervention of, or facilitation from, Legal Services Authorities such as

a. counselling services to deal with situation of incarceration of a family member,

b. drug de-addiction,

c. hospitalization and/or treatment of mentally ill person,

d. providing medical care to members,

e. fresh admission of children or re-admission of dropout children,

f. vocational training to adult members or children, wherever desired,

g. enrolment in skill development,

h. connecting the children with ICDS (Integrated Child Development Scheme),

i. assistance to adult members in identification of employment prospects,

j. labour laws related issues of minimum wages, non-payment of wages,

k. social security etc. or benefits under welfare schemes for organized l abour,

l. providing assistance in availing benefits of welfare schemes for unorganized labour, life and accidental insurance, benefits provided to persons with disabilities under various schemes of government etc.

B. PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT

The Scheme focuses on holistic psycho-social care for dependents of incarcerated persons and victims of crime by offering counselling, trauma recovery support, community sensitisation, and crisis response services such as:

i. Regular individual and group counselling for dependents of prisoners and victims of crime.

ii. Provision of trauma care, group therapy, stigma-reduction initiatives, and emotional/behavioral support within affected communities.

iii. Access to crisis counselling and psychological first aid through integration with One Stop Centers, victim compensation cells, and accredited service providers.

iv. Capacity-building of PLVs and community workers to identify, counsel, and refer dependents in need of urgent psycho-social support, thereby strengthening early intervention at the grassroots level.

v. Long-term rehabilitation and continuity of care, including follow-up counselling and mental health support, aligned with the provisions of the CrPC/BNSS in relation to victim compensation, as well as other statutory frameworks, to address prolonged trauma, grief, and social isolation.

C. EDUCATION AND CHILD WELFARE

To safeguard the education of dependent children of incarcerated persons and victims of crime, the Scheme aims to uphold the constitutional mandate of the right to education under Article 21-A. It further endeavors to facilitate:

i. Formal coordination with District Education Officer or Local School authorities for admission, retention, and continuation of education of children under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.

ii. Facilitation of access to scholarships, hostel facilities, midday meals, and other welfare entitlements through coordination with relevant Government Departments and accredited community-based organisations.

iii. Awareness and facilitation to seek emergency financial grants and immediate relief measures for families affected by incarceration of their family member.

iv. Provision of mentoring and academic support through trained student volunteers from disciplines such as Law, Psychology, and Social Work or by collaborating with National Service Scheme (NSS) / National Cadet Corps (NCC) units or college legal aid clinics to create a structured mentorship program.

D. ECONOMIC AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

Recognising that incarceration often pushes families into sudden economic vulnerability, the Scheme prioritises livelihood security and financial stability for dependents of prisoners and victims of crime. It provides vital linkages to welfare and employment schemes including:

i. Linkage to existing welfare and livelihood schemes under the Ministries of Labour and Employment, Social Justice and Empowerment, and Rural Development.

ii. Memorandum of Understanding or coordination with key government departments (Labour, Rural Development, Social Justice, etc.) so that referrals from LSIs are taken on priority or to facilitate slots. Facilitation of Skill development, vocational training, and self- employment opportunities through the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana, National Rural Livelihoods Mission (Day-NRLM) and other State specific schemes.

E. SHELTER SUPPORT

Acknowledging that the loss of a caregiver or social stigma can leave the dependents of incarcerated persons and the victims of crime without a safe place to live, the Scheme extends critical shelter support. The assistance includes:

i. Coordination for temporary shelter through Urban Local Bodies and State Welfare Boards or under Schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

ii. Facilitation for Rehabilitation and alternative shelter options for dependents who are disowned, abandoned and/or persons suffering from mental illness.

F. RESETTLEMENT AND COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION

The Scheme promotes smooth reintegration through:

i. Family counselling to enable smooth post-release reintegration of prisoners through the Social Welfare Departments of State Governments and accredited community-based organizations.

ii. Ensuring continuity of care and education for children residing with their mothers in prison after release or transfer.

iii. Formation of community support groups for dependents of victims of crime and released prisoners.

iv. Legal and logistical support for survivor families in navigating complex legal processes and administrative procedures.

5. OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK

A. IDENTIFICATION OF DEPENDENTS:

i. Victims of Crime: In cases of dependents of the victim of crime seeking support under this Scheme, the police official after interaction with them shall intimate the concerned SLSA/DLSA as per **Form A**. Similarly, Superintendent of Nari Niketan, Observation Homes, Protection Homes, Place of Safety or any other such institution, where a victim of Crime or his/her dependent-abandoned or neglected are kept, shall also intimate the details of the dependent-abandoned or neglected to the concerned SLSA/DLSA as per Form A. This will enable early identification of dependents who may require legal assistance. The Police Officer, Superintendent of Nari Niketan, Observation Homes, Protection Homes, Place of Safety or any other such institution, may also refer the victim or their dependents to the concerned DLSA/SLSA for seeking grant of compensation or any other assistance.

ii. Incarcerated Persons: In case of dependents of incarcerated prisoners, the prison authority shall after interaction with prisoner(s) record details of dependents requiring benefit under this Scheme as per Form A. The details shall be forwarded to the concerned DLSA through the respective Prison Legal Aid Clinic (PLAC). This exercise shall be continuous, with every interaction promptly shared with PLAC.

iii. Verification: Upon receiving such details, either from Police Officer or Prison or any other source including the dependents themselves, the concerned DLSA shall verify the socio-economic condition of the dependents with the assistance of PLVs, Jail Visiting Lawyers (hereinafter referred to as "JVLs"), and Probation Officers/Welfare Officers. Wherever necessary, home visits shall be conducted and reports submitted to the concerned DLSA for appropriate action.

iv. Record Maintenance: The concerned DLSAs shall maintain verified record of dependents based on furnished documents such as ration cards, school certificates, and affidavits, which may be locally verified. In the case of dependents of victims of crime, the following may also be taken on record for the purpose of establishing eligibility under the Scheme:

a. the nature of crime suffered by the victim, with priority accorded to serious crimes such as offences against the person, crimes against women and children, caste/community-targeted crimes, cases of mass violence or disasters, and crimes resulting in death, disability, or prolonged incapacitation;

b. supporting documents including a registered FIR or charge sheet to evidence the commission of the offence; and

c. wherever available, preliminary or final judicial findings confirming the crime may also be considered.

Provided, the absence of such a finding/FIR/Charge sheet shall not, by itself, disqualify an otherwise eligible dependent of victim of crime.

B. PROCESSING THE INTERACTION SHEETS:

The processing would be done in following manner:

i. If the dependent/prisoner/victim of crime resides within the jurisdiction of the DLSA receiving the interaction sheet, the concerned DLSA shall directly initiate necessary action.

ii. If the dependent/prisoner/victim of crime resides in another district within the same State, the receiving DLSA shall forward the interaction sheet, along with draft application, to the concerned DLSA (assignee DLSA) for action, under intimation to the parent SLSA.

iii. If the dependent/prisoner/victim of crime resides outside the territorial jurisdiction of the parent SLSA, the receiving DLSA shall forward the interaction sheet, with draft application to its parent SLSA. The parent SLSA shall then transmit the same to the assignee SLSA, which will ensure onward transmission to the concerned DLSA for necessary action.

iv. All interaction sheets shall be scanned and transmitted electronically (through e-mail) to the concerned SLSA or DLSA.

C. DATA COMPILATION AND REPORTING MECHANISM:

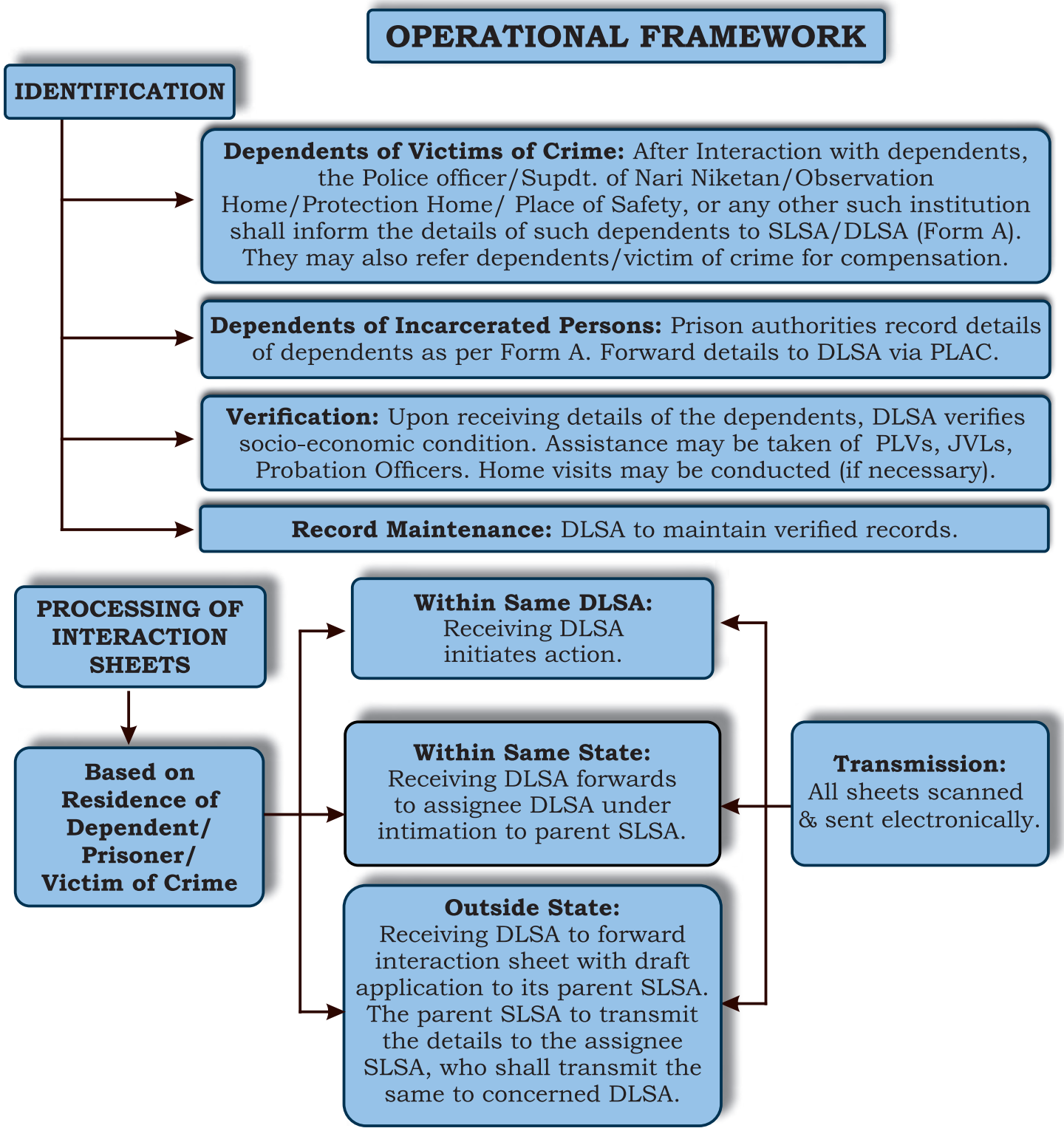
i. Upon receiving the interaction sheets of dependent/prisoner/victim of crime, each DLSA shall compile the data as per **Form B** on monthly basis.

ii. The compiled data shall be transmitted by the DLSA to the respective SLSA not later than the last working day of each month.

iii. The SLSA shall, in turn, consolidate the data received from all DLSAs and submit the data to NALSA on quarterly basis as per **Form C**.

D. PRIVACY AND CONSENT:

Informed consent of the prisoner/victim of crime/dependent to be obtained and data be only shared with those directly responsible under the Scheme, so as to encourage families to cooperate without fear of stigma or misuse of information.



6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE SCHEME

The office of SLSA/DLSA is the primary authority for implementation, monitoring, and inter-agency coordination under the Scheme. The SLSA(s)/DLSA(s) and their workforce shall work towards proper implementation of the Scheme and perform their duties in accordance with the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, governing regulatory frameworks and guidelines. The services of Legal Aid Lawyers and JVLs shall be regulated by the *National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010*. The engagement and functioning of PLVs shall be guided by the *Scheme for Para-Legal Volunteers (Revised), 2011*. Any Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) shall be regulated in accordance with the policies, schemes and guidelines, if any, issued by the respective Central or State Governments concerned.

7. INTER DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chairperson, SLSA/DLSA, as the case may be, shall coordinate quarterly/monthly meetings with Police/ Collector/ Prison Department/ Officers of Social, Welfare, Education, Health Departments, etc. to review the support given to NALSA SPRUHA (Supporting Potential and Resilience of the Unseen, Held-back and Affected) Scheme, 2025 beneficiaries and resolve inter-departmental issues.

8. ORIENTATION, AWARENESS AND SENSITISATION

The SLSAs/DLSAs shall periodically impart training to the LSI Workforce under this Scheme about the unique need of the family members of incarcerated persons and victims of crime qua sensitivity, trauma etc.

Awareness sessions on the provisions and objectives of the Scheme shall be organised in jails and police stations on a regular basis. These sessions shall be aimed at sensitising convicts, UTPs, police personnel, and other stakeholders about the availability of legal aid, the rights of dependents of prisoners and victims of crime, and the mechanisms established under the Scheme. The responsibility for conducting such sessions shall rest with the DLSAs, in coordination with the SLSAs and with the assistance of PLVs, JVLs and other designated functionaries.

9. FINANCIAL OUTLAY

i. For the implementation of the Scheme, every SLSA/DLSA with the approval of Executive Chairperson and Patron-in-Chief of respective SLSAs may engage/empanel psychologists, counsellors on need basis subject to availability of financial resources available.

ii. The honorarium payable shall be met from the Grants-in-aid funds, with the prior approval of the Executive Chairperson and Patron-in-Chief of the respective SLSAs. Preference may be given to psychologists, counsellors who are appointed in civil hospitals for such work.

10. SAVINGS CLAUSE

This Scheme shall not override or nullify any scheme, project, or initiative already operational at the State or District level. It shall function in addition to and in harmony with such existing frameworks, ensuring complementarity and strengthening of efforts without duplication or displacement.

11. CONCLUSION

SPRUHA represents a significant expansion of NALSA's vision of justice by acknowledging the often-overlooked suffering of dependents of both incarcerated persons and victims of crime. The Scheme seeks to bridge the gap between legal principles and the lived experiences, upholding the Constitutional ideals of dignity, equality, and access to justice.

REPORTING FORM- A

PROFORMA FOR INTERACTION WITH DEPENDENTS/PRISONER/VICTIM OF CRIME

(ATTACH SHEETS IF REQUIRED)

Name of Jail / Police Station/ Superintendent of Nari Niketan, Observation Homes, Protection Homes, Place of Safety:

Any other Institution (please Specify):

Name & Designation of Interacting Official & ID No.:

Date of Interaction:

Name, Age and Gender of Prisoner:

i. Status: Convict □ UTP □ **ii. Case Details (FIR & Police Station):**

Name, Age and Gender of Dependent of Prisoner or Dependent of Victim of Crime (Please specify):

Contact Details of Dependents:

Sr. No.	Family Members (Relation with prisoner/victim of crime)	Address and Phone Number	Legal Aid or Services Required

Referred to (SLSA/DLSA/PLAC/Other Agency):

REPORTING FORM-B

(To be submitted by DLSA to SLSA on monthly basis)

<table>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="4">DEPENDENT PARTICULARS</td></tr>
<tr><td>S. No.</td><td>Name of DLSA</td><td colspan="3"></td></tr>
<tr><td>(i)</td><td>Total No. of dependents/prisoners/ victims of crime interacted with:</td><td colspan="3">a. Victim of Crime:
b. Dependent:
c. Convict:
d. UTPs:</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="5">(ii)</td><td rowspan="2">No. of dependents for whom interaction sheets</td><td>Received</td><td colspan="2">Referred</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">No. of dependents who are eligible under the Scheme:</td><td colspan="2">Total</td></tr>
<tr><td>Dependents of Prisoners</td><td></td><td colspan="2" rowspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Dependents of Victims of Crime</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">(iii)</td><td>No. of dependents who are provided legal assistance:</td><td>Legal Services</td><td colspan="2">Pro-bono Services</td></tr>
<tr><td>Dependents of Prisoners</td><td></td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Dependents of Victims of Crime</td><td></td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="7">(iv)</td><td rowspan="7">Types of other services/assistance provided:</td><td>Services</td><td colspan="2">Number of dependents of</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Prisoner</td><td>Victim of Crime</td></tr>
<tr><td>Psycho-Social Support</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
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<tr><td>Resettlement and Community Reintegration</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
</table>

REPORTING FORM-C

(SLSA to submit data to NALSA on quarterly basis)

<table>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="4">DEPENDENT PARTICULARS</td></tr>
<tr><td>S. No.</td><td>Name of SLSA</td><td colspan="3"></td></tr>
<tr><td>(i)</td><td>Total No. of dependents/prisoners/ victims of crime interacted with:</td><td colspan="3">a. Victim of Crime:
b. Dependent:
c. Convict:
d. UTPs:</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="5">(ii)</td><td rowspan="2">No. of dependents for whom interaction sheets</td><td>Received</td><td colspan="2">Referred</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">No. of dependents who are eligible under the Scheme:</td><td colspan="2">Total</td></tr>
<tr><td>Dependents of Prisoners</td><td></td><td colspan="2" rowspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Dependents of Victims of Crime</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">(iii)</td><td>No. of dependents who are provided legal assistance:</td><td>Legal Services</td><td colspan="2">Pro-bono Services</td></tr>
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</table>

NALSA's Framework of Schemes, SOPs, Guidelines & Publications

Schemes

1. Scheme for Para-Legal Volunteers
2. NALSA (Legal Services to Disaster Victims through Legal Services Authorities) Scheme, 2010
3. NALSA (Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation) Scheme, 2015
4. NALSA (Legal Services to the Workers in the Unorganised Sector) Scheme, 2015
5. NALSA (Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Schemes) Scheme, 2015
6. NALSA (Legal Services to Senior Citizens) Scheme, 2016
7. NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attacks) Scheme, 2016
8. NALSA's Compensation Scheme for Women Victims/Survivors of Sexual Assault/Other Crimes, 2018
9. NALSA (Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024
10. NALSA (Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024
11. NALSA (SAMVAD - Strengthening Access to Justice for Marginalized, Vulnerable Adivasis and Denotified/Nomadic Tribes) Scheme, 2025
12. NALSA (DAWN - Drug Awareness and Wellness Navigation - For a Drug Free India) Scheme, 2025
13. NALSA (JAGRITI - Justice Awareness for Grassroots Information and Transparency Initiative) Scheme, 2025
14. NALSA Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojana, 2025
15. NALSA – Scheme on Access to Justice for Victims of Human–Wildlife Conflict (HWC), 2025

SOP/Guidelines

1. SOP-Ensuring Access to Justice for Widows Living in Shelter Homes
2. NALSA (ASHA - Awareness, Support, Help and Action) Standard Operating Procedure - Towards Eliminating Child Marriage, 2025

Handbooks and Publications

1. Handbook of Formats: Ensuring Effective Legal Services
2. Handbook on POSH Act "Speak Up" (English), "Awaaz Uthao" (Hindi)
3. Nari Ki Udaan
4. Green Verdicts: A Comprehensive Digest of Recent Environmental Law Cases
5. Compendium on Human-Wildlife Conflict: National & State-Level Schemes, Guidelines, Circulars, Advisories, Directives, Judicial Pronouncements and Policy Frameworks

न्याय सब के लिए

ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL

National Legal Services Authority

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26, Man Singh Road, New Delhi-110011
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