
INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE AGAINST MEN: AN OVERLOOKED REALITY?

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ABSTRACT

When we think of domestic violence or intimate partner violence (IPV), the image that often comes to mind is of women as the primary victims. While this reflects a harsh and undeniable reality, there is a quieter, under-discussed truth, men too can be victims of the most extreme form of IPV i.e., intimate partner homicide.

Intimate Partner Violence encompasses physical, sexual, psychological, or economic abuse inflicted by a current or former partner within an intimate relationship. Intimate partner violence is abuse or aggression that occurs in a romantic relationship. Intimate partner refers to both current and former spouses and dating partners. Recognized globally as both a public health concern and a human rights violation, IPV transcends cultural and gender boundaries. While women remain the most frequent victims, men too are subjected to various forms of IPV including its most severe outcome, IPH which represents the gravest consequence of IPV, where one partner's violence results in the death of the other.

This article explores the overlooked issue of male victimization in intimate partner violence and homicide, while acknowledging women's disproportionate risks. Drawing on case studies, psychological patterns, and comparative legal frameworks in India and abroad, it highlights how societal stereotypes and gendered laws contribute to the invisibility of male victims. The paper calls for gender-neutral reforms, balanced safeguards, inclusive support services, and better data collection, framing domestic violence as a human issue that demands equal protection for all.

Keywords: Domestic Violence, Intimate Partner Violence, Intimate Partner Homicide, Human Rights Violation.

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I. Introduction

Before delving deeper into the subject, it is essential to first clarify the context of the discussion. In contemporary society, men are often perceived as *protectors, providers, and decision-makers*, roles deeply rooted in traditional gender expectations. Conversely, men are also frequently stereotyped as *aggressors or potential perpetrators of violence*, presumed to possess the power and capability to dominate or harm. The vulnerability of men in close relationships is largely ignored by this ingrained social narrative. Because of this, the conversation about intimate partner violence (IPV) and domestic violence has become very biased, with a near-exclusive focus on men as the offenders and women as the victims. This focus unintentionally silences the experiences of men who endure abuse in relationships, even though it reflects an unquestionable and critical reality. Neglecting male victims of intimate partner homicide (IPH), the most severe and deadly result of IPV, is a major effect of this biased view. Even though statistics indicate that men are also victims of IPV and IPH, their suffering is still underreported, undervalued, and frequently disregarded by the legal and social systems. Fear, ideas of masculinity, and social stigma all contribute to this invisibility which makes it very difficult for male victims to get justice or seek assistance because of a lack of support networks and a fear of disbelief.

II. Documented Instances

Violence within intimate relationships remains one of the most pressing challenges across the world. Back in 2017, more than 403,000 people were reported as victims of violent crime, and shockingly, almost a third of them suffered at the hands of someone they once trusted an intimate partner². The following year painted no brighter a picture in Canada, where police dealt with nearly 100,000 cases of domestic violence. Behind each of those numbers were real people over half of them carrying the scars of physical injury, some experiencing sexual assault, and a smaller but tragic number facing life-altering harm or even death³.

Among the most devastating forms of this violence is intimate partner homicide. In 2019

² Beattie S., David J.-D., & Roy J. (2018). L'homicide au Canada, 2017. *Statistique Canada*. Repéré en ligne. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2018001/article/54980-fra.pdf>.

³ Conroy S., Burczycka M., & Savage L. (2019). *La violence familiale au Canada: Un profil statistique*, 2018 (No 85-002-X). Statistiques Canada. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/fr/pub/85-002-x/2019001/article/00018-fra.pdf?st=I6686H0->

alone, Canada recorded 678 homicides, and close to half were linked to current or former partners. Women bore the heaviest burden, making up nearly 80% of IPV victims. The situation in Quebec illustrates this grim reality: in 2015, police documented 36 attempted murders and 11 homicides within intimate relationships. Once again, women were overwhelmingly the victims, accounting for 78% of these cases. These figures remind us that beyond the statistics lies a harsh truth, many intimate relationships, meant to be safe and supportive, instead become sites of fear and tragedy⁴.

While discussions on Intimate Partner Homicide predominantly center around female victims, emerging data highlights that men also constitute a significant, yet frequently overlooked, proportion of IPH cases. Social perceptions and policy frameworks often neglect this reality. Despite limited reporting and noticeable gaps in data collection, existing statistics clearly indicate that men, too, can fall victim to lethal violence within intimate relationships. globally about one-third of homicide victims are women, but roughly 10% of murdered men are killed by intimate partners⁵.

Recent data shows men being the victim of intimate partner violence, even homicide. U.S. statistics for 2021 report about 17,970 male murder victims, of whom 6% of the male population murdered that year were victims of intimate partner homicide.⁶ In the U.S., CDC surveys find that about 1 in 3 men report having experienced some form of physical or sexual violence or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime and roughly 10% had such violence that left them fearful or traumatized.⁷

In India, while national crime statistics on male victims are sparse, anecdotal reports and media suggest a worrying trend of “*dowry-death suicides*” and spousal murders affecting men. For instance, CBS News and Times of India have documented cases of married men driven to suicide after years of alleged harassment by wives using dowry laws. Thus, while

⁴ *Supra* ‘3’.

⁵ Lengerli Topcu A, Gorgulu T & Erden G, *Causes of intimate partner homicide: Gender differences in empathy, psychopathy, and perceived social support*, *Dusunen Adam J Psychiatr Neurol Sci* 35: 207–16 (2022).

⁶ Erica L. Smith, *Female Murder Victims and Victim-Offender Relationship*, 2021, NCJ 305613 (Dec. 13, 2022), Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Dep’t of Justice, <https://bjs.ojp.gov/female-murder-victims-and-victim-offender-relationship-2021> (last visited Sept. 6, 2025).

⁷ Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, *Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, and Stalking Among Men*, CDC (last visited Sept. 6, 2025), <https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/about/intimate-partner-violence-sexual-violence-and-stalking-among-men.html>.

women form the majority of IPV victims, men still comprise a substantial group whose violence and abuse are undercounted and inadequately addressed.

III. Psychological and Criminological Patterns

Psychological studies underline that intimate partner violence is not the monopoly of one gender. Men who kill partners often exhibit pronounced antisocial traits and jealousy. The Turkish prison study found male perpetrators had significantly higher psychopathy scores than female perpetrators, and men's homicide of a partner was strongly predicted by their own prior violence toward her.⁸ Conversely, women who kill partners typically have histories of being abused: the same study noted that women's killings were best predicted by the women's experience of physical abuse, jealousy, and lack of social support⁹, consistent with self-defense or retaliation. In real cases, female defendants frequently claim battering or fear even if courts ultimately convict. Law enforcement data reflect these dynamics: U.S. reports show that nearly half of women killed by partners involve the killer's subsequent suicide attempt, suggesting male overreaction, whereas women who kill more often use less-lethal weapons. Notably, some homicides are bidirectional: a CDC analysis found that among cases of female-on-male partner murder, the victim often had also abused the perpetrator beforehand.

For male victims, the damage can be more emotional or psychological than physical – but still severe. Emotional abuse such as jealousy, humiliation, threats is common, and men report high levels of depression and trauma even when physical injuries are few. Society's “*boys don't cry*” norms exacerbate this: many men feel ashamed to admit abuse, fearing disbelief. As mental health experts note, male survivors often endure fear and anxiety, and may develop PTSD symptoms like any other victim.¹⁰ Tragically, cases like Atul Subhash and Puneet Khurana show that the weight of false legal charges and in-law harassment can drive men to suicide. Commentators warn that “*no gender has a monopoly on suffering*”¹¹ and that legal invisibility of male victims' fuels despair.

⁸ Lengerli Topçu A, Gorgulu T, Erden G, *Causes of Intimate Partner Homicide: Gender Differences in Empathy, Psychopathy, and Perceived Social Support*, DÜŞÜNEN ADAM J. PSYCHIATRY & NEUROLOGICAL SCI. (2022), <https://dusunenadamdergisi.org/article/1586> (last visited Sept. 6, 2025).

⁹ *Supra* ‘33’.

¹⁰ *Supra* ‘5’.

¹¹ Anna-Katharina Priesterath, Section 498A: *How Legal Systems Fail to Recognize Male Victims of Violence under Gendered Laws*, UCC UNIVERSITY EXPRESS (Mar. 10, 2025),

IV. International Legal Frameworks

Global conventions likewise emphasize women's protection. The *UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (1979)¹² and its interpretations explicitly frame domestic violence as a form of sex-based discrimination against women. The *Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention (2011)* is even titled *Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence*. Its stated purpose is “to protect women against all forms of violence; to prevent, prosecute and eliminate violence against women and domestic violence”¹³ It defines violence against women as a human rights violation. In practice the treaty obliges signatory states to criminalize psychological, physical or sexual violence *against women*, and to adopt services to aid female victims. While the Istanbul text does acknowledge that other family members can also be victims of domestic violence, but its principal mandates focus on *women*. No comparable international treaty explicitly addresses male victims of domestic abuse.

While some countries like Canada and Australia have moved toward gender-neutral laws on sexual violence and assault, most domestic-violence policies still prioritize women. In recent years, however, awareness is slowly expanding. In the U.S. the Violence Against Women Act now funds some support programs for male survivors, and NGOs highlight that any gender can suffer IPV. Research circles are publishing more on male victims: one German study found dozens of men who narrowly escaped being murdered by partners, indicating that men account for a substantial minority of attempted or actual partner murders. These developments suggest the conversation is shifting, albeit slowly, toward acknowledging male victimization even within traditionally women-focused frameworks.

V. Indian Legal Framework

Under the *Indian Penal Code*, intimate partner violence (IPV) was addressed through provisions like Section 498A¹⁴, which criminalized cruelty by a husband or his relatives

<https://www.uccuniversityexpress.com/latestissue/section-498a-how-legal-systems-fail-to-recognize-male-victims-of-violence-under-gendered-laws> (last visited Sept. 6, 2025).

¹² United Nations, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, G.A. Res. 34/180, U.N. Doc. A/Res/34/180 (Dec. 18, 1979), entered into force Sept. 3, 1981.

¹³ Council of Europe, Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), CETS No. 210, entered into force Aug. 1, 2014.

¹⁴ Indian Penal Code, 1860, § 498A, No. 45, Acts of Parliament, 1860 (India).

towards a wife. However, this law was explicitly gendered, offering no legal recourse for male or transgender victims of IPV. Similarly, Section 377¹⁵ of the IPC, which criminalized "*carnal intercourse against the order of nature*," was occasionally used to prosecute non-consensual same-sex acts, but it did not encompass all forms of sexual violence, particularly those occurring within intimate relationships. Homicide, including intimate partner homicide, was governed by Section 300¹⁶ (murder) now section 101 under the BNS¹⁷ and Section 299¹⁸ (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) now section 100 under the BNS¹⁹, without specific provisions addressing IPV-related killings.

The *Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita*, 2023, introduced several reforms, including gender-neutral language in certain provisions. For instance, Section 77²⁰ criminalizes voyeurism without specifying the gender of the perpetrator or victim, and Section 2(10)²¹ defines "transgender person" by referring to the *Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019*. However, the BNS retains a female-centric definition of rape under Section 63²², effectively excluding male and transgender victims from legal recognition in cases of sexual violence within intimate relationships. Moreover, the BNS omits Section 377²³, leaving a significant gap in legal protections for male and transgender victims of non-consensual sexual acts. Regarding homicide, while the BNS maintains provisions for murder and culpable homicide, it does not introduce specific measures to address intimate partner homicides, thereby continuing the IPC's lack of targeted legal responses to IPV-related deaths. While the BNS introduces some gender-neutral language and acknowledges transgender individuals in its definitions, it fails to provide comprehensive legal protections for male and transgender victims of intimate partner violence and homicide, thereby perpetuating the shortcomings of the IPC in this regard.

VI. Male Victims in Intimate Partner Homicide

a) Meghalaya Murder Case

¹⁵ Indian Penal Code, 1860, § 377, No. 45, Acts of Parliament, 1860 (India).

¹⁶ Indian Penal Code, 1860, § 300, No. 45, Acts of Parliament, 1860 (India).

¹⁷ Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, § 101, No. 45, Acts of Parliament, 2023 (India).

¹⁸ Indian Penal Code, 1860, § 299, No. 45, Acts of Parliament, 1860 (India).

¹⁹ Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, § 100, No. 45, Acts of Parliament, 2023 (India).

²⁰ Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, § 77, No. 45, Acts of Parliament, 2023 (India).

²¹ Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, § 2(10), No. 45, Acts of Parliament, 2023 (India).

²² Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, § 63, No. 45, Acts of Parliament, 2023 (India).

²³ Indian Penal Code, 1860, § 377, No. 45, Acts of Parliament, 1860 (India).

One particularly harrowing instance that underscores the often-overlooked reality of male victimization in Intimate Partner Homicide is the case of Sonam and Raja Raghuvanshi. The couple, from Indore, Madhya Pradesh, were married on May 11, 2025, in an arranged marriage and embarked on their honeymoon to Meghalaya on May 20.²⁴ Just four days into the trip, on May 23, they disappeared after leaving a homestay in Nongriat village, Cherrapunji²⁵. Raja's decomposed body was found on June 2 in a deep gorge beneath Wei Sawdong Falls, his throat slit, with valuables, including a gold ring, chain, wallet, and phone was missing. Nearby were also a machete and a blood-stained raincoat.²⁶ Authorities allege that 25-year-old Sonam orchestrated the murder, hiring four men, including one identified as her alleged lover, Raj Singh Kushwaha to carry it out.²⁷ Three suspects mainly, Akash Rajput, Vishal Singh Chauhan, and Raj Singh Kushwahaboth, were arrested, also a fourth suspect, Anand Kurmi was later taken into custody as well.²⁸

Sonam surrendered voluntarily on June 9, at a dhaba in Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh, after contacting her brother via a phone provided by the restaurant owner; she appeared distraught, only to be detained by local police and later transferred to Meghalaya authorities²⁹. Meghalaya's Director-General of Police, I Nongrang, confirmed her surrender and the arrests, while Chief Minister Conrad Sangma publicly commended the police for their swift action within seven days.³⁰ Raja's family demanded justice, with Raja's brother Vipin stating, *"Only Sonam can clarify. If she's guilty, she should be punished"*³¹. In contrast, Sonam's father, Devi Singh, maintains her innocence, accusing the Meghalaya Police of fabricating evidence and calling for a federal CBI inquiry, even

²⁴ Latoya Gayle, *Missing Bride Surrenders to Police and Is Arrested After Allegedly Murdering Her Husband on Their Honeymoon*, PEOPLE (June 9, 2025, 4:00 PM EDT), <https://people.com/bride-arrested-husband-found-dead-honeymoon-india-11750464> (last visited Sept. 6, 2025).

²⁵ *Meghalaya Honeymoon Horror: MP Bride, Lover Got Her Husband Killed in Meghalaya*, Times of India (June 2025), <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/honeymoon-horror-mp-bride-lover-got-her-husband-killed-in-meghalaya/articleshow/121736374.cms> (last visited Sept. 6, 2025).

²⁶ *Indian Bride, 25, Accused of Hiring Four Men to Murder Arranged Husband on Honeymoon*, N.Y. Post (June 11, 2025), <https://nypost.com/2025/06/11/world-news/indian-bride-25-accused-of-hiring-four-men-to-murder-new-husband-on-honeymoon/> (last visited Sept. 6, 2025).

²⁷ Indore couple missing case gets a shocking twist, wife Sonam hired killers to murder husband Raja Raghuvanshi on honeymoon in Meghalaya, The Economic Times (June 9, 2025), <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/new-updates/indore-man-allegedly-killed-by-assailants-hired-by-wife-during-honeymoon-in-meghalaya/articleshow/121716167.cms> (last visited Sept. 6, 2025).

²⁸ *Supra* '24'.

²⁹ *Supra* '5'.

³⁰ *Supra* '30'.

³¹ *Supra* '25'.

alleging police about her involvement in the crime.³²

Meanwhile, the case has captivated public attention; the couple's wedding video went viral, with viewers noting Raja's apparent happiness and Sonam's seemingly subdued demeanor sparking online speculation about premeditation.³³ The motive remains officially unconfirmed, though some officials have hinted at a "*love triangle*" as possible cause. The investigation continues, with Sonam currently facing charges of conspiracy and orchestrating homicide.³⁴

b) Rampur "Lover's Murder" Case

In a disturbing episode of intimate partner violence, a groom-to-be named Nihal was abducted and murdered one day before his scheduled wedding in Rampur district, Uttar Pradesh, under circumstances suggesting premeditated conspiracy³⁵. On June 15, 2025, Nihal received a call from someone posing as a cousin, requesting that he come out to finalize his wedding attire³⁶. Trusting the caller, he left home, only to be taken away by two motorcycle-borne assailants and later found dead in a forested area of Ratanpura, victims of strangulation³⁷. His body was discovered dumped in the wild region of Azimnagar police station jurisdiction.³⁸ Subsequent investigations led to the arrest of a man named Saddam, allegedly the bride-to-be's lover, who originally hailed from the groom's own village, Dhanpura. The groom's mobile phone was also recovered, while a second suspect, Farman, is reported to have been arrested as well.³⁹ During a tense moment in the investigation, Saddam attempted to snatch a pistol from a police constable when asked to assist in recovering the mobile phone; the station officer had to open fire in self-defense, resulting

³² *Supra* '24'.

³³ *Supra* '27'.

³⁴ *Supra* '27'.

³⁵ *UP Man Killed a Day Before His Wedding, 1 Arrested: Police*, NDTV (June 17, 2025), <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/up-man-killed-a-day-before-his-wedding-1-arrested-police-8688717> (last visited Sept. 6, 2025).

³⁶ HT Correspondent, *Man Abducted, Murdered a Day Before Wedding in UP's Rampur*, Hindustan Times (updated June 16, 2025), <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/others/man-abducted-murdered-a-day-before-wedding-in-up-s-rampur-101750089420183.html> (last visited Sept. 6, 2025).

³⁷ *Supra* '35'.

³⁸ Sanjay Pandey, *Groom Murdered Day Before Wedding in UP's Rampur; Bride's 'Lover' Arrested*, DECCAN HERALD (June 17, 2025), <https://www.deccanherald.com/india/uttar-pradesh/groom-murdered-day-before-wedding-in-ups-rampur-brides-lover-arrested-3589734> (last visited Sept. 6, 2025).

³⁹ *Man Killed Day Before Wedding in India's Rampur: Groom's Family Alleges Fiancée Behind Murder*, ASIA NEWS NETWORK (June 18, 2025), <https://asianews.network/man-killed-day-before-wedding-in-indias-rampur-grooms-family-alleges-fiancee-behind-murder/> (last visited Sept. 6, 2025).

in Saddam sustaining injuries before being taken into custody.⁴⁰ Deputy superintendent of police Jitendra Singh stated that the police are thoroughly investigating the case and will soon expose the full conspiracy. *“The bride to be is being questioned. We are close to solving the case. One accused is already in custody, and efforts are on to nab the remaining culprits,”* he said⁴¹, though concrete judicial outcomes like charges, trials, or verdicts have not yet been reported.

c) The “Circus-Like” Trial of Jodi Arias

The trial of Jodi Arias, charged with the 2008 murder of her former boyfriend Travis Alexander, became notoriously circus-like due to its sensationalism and intense media scrutiny. Authorities and even the presiding prosecutor received death threats, the prosecutor ultimately wrote a tell-all book and was later disbarred, and Arias herself received marriage proposals from admirers. The relationship was deeply troubled: Alexander, a motivational speaker and devout Mormon, had converted Arias after they met at a work convention, despite being in different states. He later ended the relationship, and she moved to Arizona to be closer to him. She showed behaviour that friends found controlling, citing examples of stalking, monitoring his communications, and engaging in erratic entry into his home.⁴² On June 4, 2008, Travis Alexander was found murdered in his shower, having suffered 27 stab wounds, his throat slit, and a bullet wound to the head. Despite her initial denials, overwhelming evidence, such as Arias’s bloody palm print at the scene and a .25-calibre gun, matching the murder weapon, traced back to her which pointed squarely to her involvement. During her 2013 murder trial, Arias’s defense shifted narratives from claiming a break-in, to self-defense, to memory loss or PTSD. The prosecution painted her as calculating and manipulative. The trial drew such fervent public attention that it disrupted court proceedings: a psychologist witness was accused of harboring romantic feelings for Arias, jurors were dismissed mid-trial, and Arias’s jailhouse artwork earned auction prices online. Ultimately, after 15 hours of jury deliberation, Arias was convicted of first-degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison without parole in 2013. Her appeals were subsequently rejected, and she remains

⁴⁰ *Supra* ‘36’.

⁴¹ *Supra* ‘38’.

⁴² Crime+Investigation, The ‘Circus-Like’ Trial of Jodi Arias, CRIME+INVESTIGATION (Jan. 6, 2025), <https://www.crimeandinvestigation.co.uk/articles/circus-trial-followed-travis-alexanders-murder>

incarcerated.⁴³

d) The Suicide case of Atul Subhash

Beyond outright homicide, Indian men have also succumbed to suicide under domestic pressures. In late 2024, Bengaluru techie Atul Subhash, aged 34, ended his life after chronic legal harassment. He left an 80-minute video and suicide notes accusing his estranged wife of filing multiple false dowry and cruelty cases to extort money.⁴⁴ These detailed messages accused his estranged wife Nikita Singhania, her mother Nisha, brother Anurag, and uncle Sushil of harassment, extortion, and legal harassment, alleging they filed multiple false cases against him, demanded a settlement of ₹3 crore, and even manipulated family court proceedings to deny him access to his son⁴⁵. Following a complaint filed by his brother, the Bengaluru Police registered a First Information Report for abetment to suicide u/s 108⁴⁶ of the *Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita*, 2023. Shortly after, Nikita was arrested in Gurugram, Nisha, and Anurag were arrested in Uttar Pradesh and remanded to 14-day judicial custody in Bengaluru⁴⁷. In response to the allegations, Nikita has denied any harassment, asserting that she had been living separately from Atul for nearly three years and claimed she was the one subjected to abuse by him. On January 4, 2025, a Bengaluru court granted bail to Nikita and the in-law defendants, which triggered public concern about the safety of Atul's four-year-old son. Subsequently, the Karnataka High Court heard Nikita's plea to quash the FIR. On January 6, 2025, the bench led by Justice S. R. Krishna Kumar refused to dismiss the FIR, stating that the complaint "*prima facie*" met the criteria for abetment to suicide. The judge even asked pointedly, "*Why don't you want the investigation to happen?*"⁴⁸

⁴³ *Supra* '42'.

⁴⁴ NDTV, *Amid Atul Subhash Suicide Shocker, Supreme Court's Big Remark on Dowry Cases*, NDTV (Dec. 11, 2024), <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/atul-subhash-nikita-singhania-amit-atul-subhash-suicide-row-supreme-courts-big-remark-on-dowry-cases-7222267> (last visited Sept. 6, 2025).

⁴⁵ Mint, *Bengaluru Techie Atul Subhash Suicide Case: 'If I Harassed Him for Money...', What Nikita Singhania Told Police*, MINT (Jan. 6, 2025), <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/bengaluru-techie-atul-subhash-suicide-case-if-i-harassed-him-for-money-what-nikita-singhania-told-police-11734329001623.html> (last visited Sept. 6, 2025).

⁴⁶ *Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita*, 2023, § 108, No. 45, Acts of Parliament, 2023 (India).

⁴⁷ The New Indian Express, *Why Don't You Want Investigation to Happen? Karnataka HC Rejects Plea to Quash FIR in Atul Subhash Suicide Case*, THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS (Jan. 6, 2025), <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2025/Jan/06/why-dont-you-want-investigation-to-happen-karnataka-hc-rejects-plea-to-quash-fir-in-atul-subhash-suicide-case-2534561.html> (last visited Sept. 6, 2025).

⁴⁸ LiveLaw News Network, *Atul Subhash Suicide: Ingredients for Abetment of Suicide Prima Facie Made Out, Karnataka High Court Refuses to Stay Investigation Against Wife*, LIVE LAW (Jan. 6, 2025), <https://www.livelaw.in/high-court/karnataka-high-court/atul-subhash-suicide-ingredients-for-abetment-of>

This case shines a harsh light on the emotional and legal challenges that can emerge within intimate partnerships, especially the less-discussed phenomenon of male mental health crises and allegations of systemic bias. The investigation remains active, with critical evidence under scrutiny and deep concerns about the well-being of the child caught in the middle.

VII. Conclusion

This study shows how Intimate partner violence and homicide are serious issues that cause deep harm across all sections of society, regardless of gender. While women continue to face disproportionate risks in many contexts, the experiences of male victims often remain overlooked, leaving gaps in legal protection and social recognition. Cases from India and abroad show that violence in intimate relationships can be perpetrated by any gender, underscoring the need for a more inclusive approach. To address this, reforms should focus on making domestic violence laws gender-neutral, ensuring that both men and women can seek protection and accountability when harmed. At the same time, procedural safeguards must be in place to prevent misuse, while awareness campaigns, victim-support services, and police training should reflect the reality that abuse affects all genders. Improved data collection and gender-disaggregated statistics are also essential to build a clearer understanding of the issue. On the global stage, India can lead by advocating for inclusive language in international instruments, balancing strong protections for women with recognition that men and nonbinary persons may also be vulnerable. Ultimately, condemning violence in families as a human issue rather than a specific gendered one offers the most just and compassionate path forward, ensuring safety, dignity, and fairness for everyone.

suicide-prima-made-out-karnataka-high-court-refuses-to-stay-investigation-against-wife-280073. (last visited Sept. 6, 2025).