

# Acid Attacks

## **What are Acid Attacks?**

Acid attacks involve the deliberate use of corrosive substances, such as sulfuric acid, hydrochloric acid, or nitric acid, to inflict severe burns and disfigurement on the victim's body, often targeting the face. These attacks are typically perpetrated with the intent to disfigure, maim, or intimidate the victim, and they have devastating physical, emotional, and psychological consequences.

## **Legal Framework:**

Laws have been enacted to address acid attacks and provide legal protections for victims. In India, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, introduced specific provisions under Sections 326A and 326B of the Indian Penal Code to address acid violence. These provisions outline penalties for perpetrators of acid attacks and provide for compensation and rehabilitation for victims. Additionally, the Supreme Court of India has issued directives to regulate the sale and distribution of acid and improve victim support services.

## **Recognizing Acid Attacks:**

Acid attacks result in severe physical injuries, including burns, scarring, and tissue damage, particularly to the face and upper body. Victims may experience pain, shock, and trauma, as well as long-term medical

complications and disabilities. It's essential to recognize the signs of acid attacks and provide immediate assistance and support to victims.

### ***Roadmap to Justice: Combating Acid Attacks***

#### **Recognition and Understanding:**

Recognize that acid attacks are a form of gender-based violence and a violation of human rights. Understand the impact of acid attacks on victims and the urgency of addressing this form of violence.

#### **Documentation and Evidence Gathering:**

Document the details of the acid attack, including the date, time, location, and circumstances of the incident. Take photographs of the victim's injuries and preserve any physical evidence, such as clothing or containers used to carry the acid.

#### **Seek Support and Guidance:**

Reach out to emergency services and medical professionals for immediate medical treatment and assistance. Contact local NGOs, support groups, or helplines specializing in acid attack survivors for emotional support and guidance.

#### **Reporting and Filing a Complaint:**

Report the acid attack to the police and file a formal complaint. Provide all relevant information and evidence to assist in the investigation and prosecution of the perpetrator(s).

### **Seeking Legal Remedies:**

Explore legal remedies available to acid attack survivors under the law, including compensation, rehabilitation, and protection. Advocate for the effective implementation of legal provisions to ensure justice for victims and accountability for perpetrators.

### **Collaboration and Cooperation:**

Collaborate with law enforcement agencies, government authorities, civil society organizations, and international partners to strengthen prevention efforts, improve victim support services, and enhance legal frameworks addressing acid violence.

### **Self-Care and Well-Being:**

Prioritize the physical and psychological well-being of acid attack survivors. Provide access to specialized medical care, reconstructive surgery, counseling, and rehabilitation services to help survivors heal and rebuild their lives.

### **Stay Informed and Empowered:**

Stay informed about initiatives and campaigns to combat acid attacks and support survivors. Educate yourself and others about the root causes of acid violence and advocate for systemic changes to address gender-based violence and discrimination.

## **Advocacy and Change:**

Advocate for policy reforms, awareness-raising campaigns, and community-based interventions to prevent acid attacks, challenge harmful gender norms, and promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

## **Persistence and Resilience:**

Recognize that combating acid attacks requires sustained effort, solidarity, and resilience. Stand in solidarity with survivors, amplify their voices, and advocate for a world where everyone can live free from violence and fear.

## ***Summary:***

Acid attacks are a brutal form of gender-based violence that inflicts severe physical and emotional harm on victims. By recognizing the signs of acid attacks, providing immediate support and assistance to survivors, and advocating for legal and social change, we can combat acid violence and create a safer and more just society for all. Through collective action and solidarity, we can work towards eliminating acid attacks and ensuring that survivors receive the support and justice they deserve.