

Sampathi

In early January, 2009, the WSG received news that a lesbian known to the WSG was going through a problem and needed help.

Sampathi is in her forties and is a divorced woman now living with her girlfriend. Sampathi's girlfriend had developed an intimacy with a friend of Sampathi – Saumya - who is herself in a long-term relationship with a woman (partner living in West Asia). When the relationship was first discovered by Sampathi, there were a few confrontations with both people and Sampathi's girlfriend – Hasitha – promised to end her relationship with Saumya.

However, at the end of December 2008, Saumya called Sampathi regarding a business transaction, and had threatened to 'take' Hasitha from her if Sampathi did not do as she was asked. Initially, Hasitha wanted to be with Saumya but then said she had decided she wants to be with Sampathi. Hasitha was taken ill and hospitalized thereafter. While she was hospitalized, Saumya made phone calls to Sampathi, threatening to kill her and also asked Sampathi to return things that she had given Hasitha.

By this time, Sampathi had shifted to her own house in a suburb of Colombo. They met up by a public road in order to return things to Saumya. Sampathi was accompanied by a friend. After she returned the things, Sampathi was physically and verbally attacked by Saumya and three other men who suddenly appeared out of a three-wheeler. She managed to drive away with the friend who accompanied her. Saumya has also phoned and threatened to kill Sampathi if she makes a police complaint.

The WSG was asked to advise Sampathi by her friend who is a WSG member. Two WSG members met Sampathi at a private venue. Sampathi was advised that she could make a police complaint – as a protective measure - stating threats by Saumya. Such a police complaint would only take effect if there were a subsequent incident. The WSG promised to provide legal and other related help if Sampathi decided to seek protection. However, after a few days, there were no other incidents and Sampathi decided not to go to the police. Hasitha and Sampathi are living together again with no contact with Saumya (as of early 2009).