

Vasanthi and Ashani

Vasanthi has been a familiar person to the WSG members from the time it started. In mid 2004, Vasanthi asked the WSG for help in dealing with problems arising due to her relationship with Ashani.

Vasanthi who is in her late-twenties, had started a relationship with her half-sister's daughter Ashani (21 years) a few months ago. Ashani had been residing with Vasanthi's family in the suburbs of Colombo at this time. A few days before Vasanthi approached the WSG, Ashani's family had found out about the relationship and forcibly taken her to their family home in the southern coast. When Vasanthi visited this house, they had verbally abused her but Ashani had stated her decision to leave with Vasanthi. Even though informed by her family that they would no longer accept her back if she left, she came to Colombo with Vasanthi.

Vasanthi's family – including her grandmother and sister living with her – has now been threatened with violence by Ashani's family. They have sent underworld characters to Vasanthi's house to intimidate them, and threaten the lesbian couple with rape and murder, if Ashani did not return to her family. Ashani has told her parents that she no longer wishes to live with them. It was because of this, and due to the threats on their lives, that they decide to contact the WSG.

The WSG arranged for a human rights lawyer to accompany Ashani who made a complaint to the police that there were threats to her life. They did not wish to leave their home, but another WSG member offered refuge for the couple in case of an emergency situation. The WSG also made enquiries regarding the possibility of finding the couple refuge in another country but was not successful in this venture. However, after about a week, the situation became less tense. The couple still live together (as of 2009) and so far there have been no further problems.