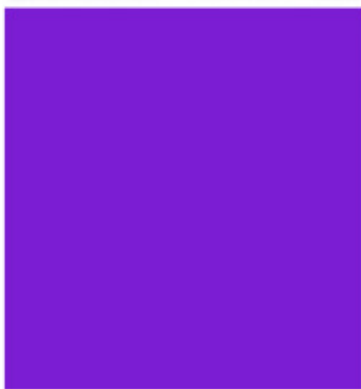


ANNUAL REPORT 2014



**CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF HUMAN RIGHTS
UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO**

Centre for the Study of Human Rights
University of Colombo

Annual Report
2014



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Vision

To create a nation with a rights consciousness in which the dignity and rights of all people are respected

Mission

To be a centre of excellence for human rights education and research using a multidisciplinary approach

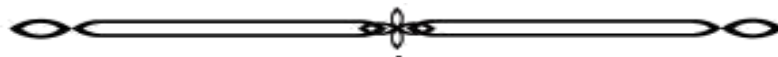




Mandate

The Centre for the Study of Human Rights is a non-profit educational institution attached to the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo.

Its mandate is to conduct and facilitate human rights education and research programmes for the university community and the community at large. Its activities are multi-disciplinary in nature.



Message by the Director



I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the CSHR for 2014.

In keeping with its mandate, CSHR continued to impart human rights education, carry out research and provide capacity building and knowledge services to diverse groups of persons. This year, CSHR commenced its first postgraduate programme, the Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (Local). The second semester of this programme is conducted jointly with The University of Sydney, where students selecting the University of Colombo follow the second semester of the programme with the local students. The Asia Pacific Master of Human Rights and Democratisation continued in collaboration with four other partner universities, with The University of Sydney as the lead partner, for the fourth consecutive year. Six overseas students followed the second semester at the University of Colombo. In terms of research, CSHR continued its work on the project on Enhanced Human Rights Protection in law enforcement and security, where research was carried out in Puttlam, to gain an understanding of the nature of relations between the community and law enforcement and security forces.

This year, FOKUS continued Phase II of the project, which focused on economic, social and cultural rights of women affected by the conflict. Persons who followed the Advanced Training Programme (ATP) on Women and Peacebuilding conducted in 2012 and 2013 were included as participants of programmes, to build their capacity. Further, government officers were also included in programmes conducted under this project.

The Resource Centre increased its publications by adding 175 new books to its collection during the year, making a total of 2975 books. Library users numbered 14,993, which was a further increase from the previous year.

CSHR supported its staff to participate in local and overseas training during the year, towards building their skills and capacities towards conducting enhanced programmes and activities.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Vice Chancellor, Dean of the Faculty of Law and members of the Board of Management of CSHR for their much valued suggestions and cooperation, while also extending my appreciation and gratitude to our funders for their continuous support and confidence in us. I wish to also thank the staff of CSHR for their hard work and dedication towards contributing to the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

Professor Sharya Scharenguivel

LLB (Hons), LLM (Harvard)

MA and MLitt (Oxon)

*Sometime Fellow of St. Johns College Cambridge and Balliol College Oxford and Life Fellow of Clare Hall Cambridge
Professor of Law and Head, Department of Private and Comparative Law, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo*

Profile

The Centre for the Study of Human Rights (CSHR) was established as a result of extensive human rights violations in Sri Lanka in 1991. It was set up as an organisation within the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, by the founder Director Dr Deepika Udugama who was attached to the Faculty of Law at the time. The main objective of setting up CSHR was to make the public aware of their rights and remedies for the violation of rights.

Over the years, CSHR has reached out to several groups such as secondary school students, rural and plantation communities, the university community, armed forces, police and prison officers, quazis, media personnel, prison inmates and the general public among others.

In relation to Human Rights Education, CSHR offers courses such as *Advanced Training Programmes*, *Distance Learning Diploma in Human Rights and Peace Studies*, *Distance Learning Diploma in Human Rights and Democracy*, *E Diploma in Human Rights*, *Asia Pacific Regional Masters Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation* conducted in collaboration with The University of Sydney and other regional universities, *Masters Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation (Local)* and a *Six Month Distance Learning Advanced Certificate in Human Rights Approach to Prison Administration* conducted for Prison Officers.

CSHR also facilitates internships and study sessions for international students to assist them to broaden their knowledge and experience on rights related issues in Sri Lanka.

In terms of Research, CSHR carries out practically applicable research in relation to rights and also conducts research for other organisations.

In terms of Capacity Building, CSHR works towards strengthening the capacity of those in state and non state sectors with the aim of protecting and promoting their rights as well as the rights of persons these groups work with.

The objective of CSHR's Resource Centre is to provide Knowledge Services to students, academics, researchers and the general public by providing access to a wide range of human rights related materials.

The final focus area of CSHR is Institutional Development, which aims to provide opportunities for its Staff to improve their knowledge, skills and capacities towards disseminating programmes to CSHR partners effectively and efficiently.

CSHR's goal is to contribute to a society that is entrenched in upholding the values of respect and dignity of all people.

Activities at a Glance

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

- Postgraduate Programmes on Human Rights
- Diploma Programmes on Human Rights
- Advanced Training Programmes on Human Rights and Law

HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH

- Research on Human Rights Protection

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Capacity Building for Prison Officers
- Human Rights Programme for the Air Force
- Phase II of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325
- Sensitisation on “Well Being of Children in Sri Lanka” for the Military and Police

KNOWLEDGE SERVICES

- Resource Centre

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Local and International Capacity Building and Training Programmes

Human Rights Education

CSHR initiated education programmes in 1996 to provide basic knowledge to the general public on the concept of human rights and a background to the law of Sri Lanka. Moving towards its vision, educational programmes aim to enhance the understanding of the multidimensional nature of human rights through formal educational programmes conducted at national level for State actors and civil society. Target groups include undergraduates, graduates, public and private sectors, officers of law enforcement agencies and security forces and individuals among others. The duration of these programmes vary from a minimum of three months to one year. CSHR adopts diverse, innovative and student oriented instructing modes in disseminating knowledge and student evaluation. CSHR takes into consideration the size of a class for each programme to ensure that the student is given attention towards enabling him/her to build an effective interaction with the instructor as well as among themselves. The following educational programmes were carried out during the year.

Postgraduate Programmes

Asia Pacific (Regional) Master of Human Rights and Democratisation 2013/14

The one year postgraduate degree programme is offered by The University of Sydney (Australia), in partnership with the University of Colombo (Sri Lanka), Gadjah Mada University (Indonesia), the Kathmandu School of Law (Nepal), Ateneo de Manila Law School (The Philippines) and Mahidol University (Thailand). The course structure of the MHRD programme has been designed to achieve the objective of developing the capacity of emerging leaders in the Asia Pacific region to protect and promote human rights.

The inauguration of the Asia Pacific Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (MHRD) 2014/15 was held on 20th January at the University of Colombo.

His Excellency David Daly, Head of the EU Delegation for Sri Lanka and the Maldives was the chief guest at this event. His Excellency Major General (R) Qasim Qureshi, High Commissioner, Pakistan High Commission, Mr Tan Li Lung, Counsellor/Head of Chancery, representing the Malaysian High Commission, Ms Chloe Ashbolt, Second Secretary, High Commission of Australia and the Hon. Consul General Mr. William John Terrence Perera, Consulate General of The Philippines participated as invitees.

Dr W K Hirimburegama, Vice Chancellor of University of Colombo, Mr V T Thamilmaran, Dean, Faculty of Law, Prof Sharya Scharenguivel, Acting Director, CSHR, Members of the Board of Management of CSHR and lecturers of the Faculty of Law were among the other invitees and participants.

This year, 6 students completed their second semester of the programme at the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo.

1. Ms Catherine Jane Elizabeth Pelling - Australia
2. Ms Sushila Karki - Nepal
3. Ms Mariam Faisal - Pakistan
4. Ms Poh Choo Chin - Malaysia
5. Mr Kimsan Soy - Cambodia
6. Ms Wallyngail Del Rosario Yumul - The Philippines

Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (MHRD) – Local programme – 2014/15

The Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (Local programme) commenced this year for the first time. The programme is a one year postgraduate degree offered by the University of Colombo and is designed for mid-career professionals and highly motivated graduates. The degree offers students a unique opportunity to engage first-hand with regional and international human rights as well as democratisation issues and to interact with internationally acclaimed academics, practitioners and experts. It also provides the learning opportunity to interact with a group of international students from The University of Sydney, Australia.

The launching ceremony of the MHRD (Local) programme was held on 8 August at the University of Colombo. Prof Radhika Coomaraswamy, Global Visiting Professor of Law, New York University School of Law was the chief guest on this occasion. Dr W K Hirimburegama, Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo; Mr V T Thamilmaran, Dean, Faculty of Law; Prof Sharya Scharenguivel, Acting Director, CSHR; Board Members of the CSHR, lecturers of the Faculty of Law and distinguished guests were among the other invitees. The batch consists of the following 15 students who will join the foreign students of the Asia Pacific (Regional) Master of Human Rights and Democratisation in the second semester which commences in January next year.

1. Shevon Charles Perera Gooneratne
2. Prabodini Hewawasam
3. Abdul Latheef Issadeen
4. Bimsara Amila Nuwan De Silva Jayodage
5. Abirami Jeyachandran
6. Thangavel Kanagaraj
7. Jalashi Changa Lokunarangoda
8. Yasmada Lakshari Lokunarangoda
9. Yakupitiyage Samadari Udeshini Piyasena
10. Charitha Subhashini Samaraarachchi
11. Prabath Sapukotanage
12. Faizer Mohamed Shaheid
13. Abdul Hameed Siyamila
14. Surani Kaushalya Sumanasekera
15. Dylan Gangadhara Perera

Diploma Programmes

Distance Learning Diploma in Human Rights and Peace Studies (DLDHRP)

The *Distance Learning Diploma in Human Rights and Peace Studies*, which commenced in 2005, was conducted for the last time, and was replaced by the new course titled *Distance Learning Diploma in Human Rights and Democracy*. There are approximately 17 students who are eligible to sit for the final examination (9 from the Sinhala medium and 8 from the Tamil medium to be conducted for the 2013/14 batch of students (including repeat students) next year.

The certificate awarding ceremony of the 2012/13 batch was held on 19th February, where 37 students received the Distance Learning Diploma in Human Rights and Peace Studies.

Distance Learning Diploma in Human Rights and Democracy (DLDHRD)

The *Distance Learning Diploma in Human Rights and Democracy* is designed for persons working at grassroot level, Human Rights activists and those who are interested in making a positive impact towards the protection and promotion of Human Rights and Democracy in the wider society. This course is designed to provide academic understanding of the core principles of Human Rights and Democracy with unique consideration to current trends and is offered in both Sinhala and Tamil mediums. The first intake commenced with the 2013/2014 batch.

There are approximately 51 students following the diploma, numbering 26 from the Sinhala medium and 25 from the Tamil medium.

E Diploma in Human Rights

The objective of this one year diploma programme is to provide an opportunity of studying human rights to those who have not had an opportunity to obtain a structured understanding of human rights issues and whose activities will have a positive impact on the promotion and protection of rights.

The certificate awarding ceremony of the 2012/13 batch was held on 19th February, where six students received the E-Diploma in Human Rights.

Three face to face sessions were held for the 2013 batch in April, July and December with the participation of the lecturers of the Faculty of Law. The face to face session held in December was in the form of a revision for the examination to be held in January 2015.

Advanced Training Programmes (ATPs) on Human Rights and Law

This year, CSHR conducted the *Advanced Training Programme on Human Rights and Fundamental Rights*, initially introduced in 2011; the *Advanced Training Programme on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law* introduced in 2013, with the objective of enhancing skills and building the capacity of persons working in the private and public sector; and the *Six Month Distance Learning Advanced Certificate in Human Rights Approach to Prison Administration* to capacitate Prison Officers, introduced in 2012.

Advanced Training Programmes (ATPs) on Human Rights and Fundamental Rights

The third batch comprising 32 students were enrolled for the *Advanced Training Programme on Human Rights and Fundamental Rights*. This programme aims to provide basic knowledge of Human Rights and to develop a system of appreciation of human beings, their individual dignity, rights, means of defending them and to motivate them to the study of human rights. This course was conducted in the Sinhala medium.

Advanced Training Programme on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law

The *Advanced Training Programme on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law* was introduced for the first time at the end of 2013, to provide basic knowledge of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law to persons in the public and private sectors. This course was conducted in English and was followed by 9 students who successfully completed the course.

Six Month Distance Learning Advanced Certificate in Human Rights Approach to Prison Administration

The *Six Month Distance Learning Advanced Certificate in Human Rights Approach to Prison Administration* was conducted in the Sinhala and Tamil mediums with 30 Prison Officers successfully completing the programme. Two face to face sessions were held on 4 November 2013 and on 5 February this year. Student evaluations comprising presentations were made by participants on 1 and 7 July.

Human Rights Research

CSHR aims to carry out human rights research based on new and topical areas at national, provincial and community levels considering the relevant human rights issues, needs and gaps. Towards this end, some of the research carried out by CSHR has been in relation to the prisons, children in foster care and on the human rights situation in the Eastern province and Polonnaruwa district during the conflict.

Some of the research carried out by CSHR has also been published.

Research on Human Rights Protection

Project on Enhancing Human Rights Protection - EHRP

During the year, CSHR continued its research on the EHRP project, which is a three year research project carried out by CSHR in collaboration with The University of Sydney, Australia. The project also includes the Kathmandu School of Law, Nepal.

The most challenging and innovative phase of the EHRP project was implemented this year. During this phase, the CSHR project team worked with 19 Police and Military personnel nominated by the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Law and Order. These officers were referred to as Human Rights Protection Facilitators (HRPFs) and each of them was required to identify a human rights issue in his/her workplace which he/she would address in their capacity, towards designing a project to address the specific issue identified by each HRPF. The CSHR project team guided, provided necessary tools and monitored the implementation of each project. Out of the 19 HRPFs, 13 of them (2 Air Force officers, 2 Navy officers, 2 Army officers, 1 officer of the Coast Guard, 2 officers from the Civil Defence Department and 4 Police officers) successfully completed the projects developed by them, while 6 HRPFs had to give up the programme due to various reasons ranging from personal issues to administrative decisions of their relevant institutions. The HRPFs projects were implemented at Air Force Headquarters, Joint Services Language Training School in Kotmale, Army Training School in Ampara, Navy Training Schools in Boossa and Uswatakeiyawa, Nochichiyagama Maha Vidyalaya (where one of the HRPFs was in the Navy Volunteer Force and was seconded to the Sri Lanka Coast Guard as Vice Principal of the school), CSD Training Schools in Galkiriyagama and Kalpitiya, Police Academy in Katana, Police Training College in Kalutara and Police Training School in Thalawa. The same process was implemented in Nepal by the Kathmandu School of Law with the participation of the Nepali Army and the Nepali Armed Police Force. HRPFs in both countries participated in the international conference titled *Human Rights and the Security Sector in the Asia Pacific*, held in Bangkok, Thailand from 15-17 September to share their experiences with each other as well as with representatives of the Police and Military institutions in the region, representatives of international agencies, NGOs and academics.

The next phase of the project focuses on carrying out an in depth study of the situational factors which lead to the improper use of force by police officers in Wanathawilluwa Police Division in Puttlam. This phase commenced in November and is due to be completed by the end of March next year.

Capacity Building

The aim of the capacity building arm is to capacitate diverse groups of persons among State actors, civil society and others at community, provincial and national levels by enhancing their knowledge and skills in the area of human rights towards the protection and promotion of rights.

Capacity Building for Prison Officers

The following capacity building programmes were conducted by CSHR for the Department of Prisons, towards enhancing the capacity of Prison Officers in relation to human rights awareness and in carrying out research (through the Centre for Research and Training in Corrections - CRTC) of the Department of Prisons. These sessions were conducted at CRTC.

On 17 March and 8 August two lectures on *Human Rights and Fundamental Rights* were conducted by Kaushalya Ariyaratna and Lekha Herath of CSHR at the CRTC, Department of Prisons, for Prison Officers.

On 26 and 27 March, a two day programme on *Research Methodology* was conducted by Kaushalya Ariyaratna, Avanka Fernando, Lekha Herath, Vidura Munasinghe and Thilini Chandrasekera of CSHR for Prison Officers of CRTC.

On 19 April, a discussion was held at the CRTC in relation to the research being conducted by the CRTC for its Officers. Kaushalya Ariyaratna, Lekha Herath and Vidura Munasinghe from CSHR facilitated the discussion.

On 22 April, 5 June and 9 July, meetings were held with CSHR and CRTC (with the Director, Training, CRTC and Prison Officers) on the research being carried out by the CRTC. Kaushalya Ariyaratna, Lekha Herath and Vidura Munasinghe participated from CSHR.

Human Rights Programme for the Air Force

As requested by Air Force Headquarters, the following three day programmes on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law were conducted in the English medium for the 44th, 45th and 46th batches of Junior Commanders of the Air Force.

| Date | Venue | No. of Participants |
|-------|----------------|---------------------|
| 13–15 | Faculty of Law | 25 |
| 03–05 | Faculty of Law | 29 |
| 29–31 | Faculty of Law | 24 |

This programme was funded by the Air Force with contributions made by CSHR.

Phase II of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325: Project on UNSCR 1325 for Uplifting the Socio-Economic and Cultural Status of Conflict Affected Women

CSHR initiated activities relating to this project in 2012 by conducting an *Advanced Training Programme on Women and Peacebuilding*. The project was funded by FOKUS, a Norwegian non-governmental organisation and focused on promoting and protecting rights of women affected by conflict. The main objective of Phase I of the project was to equip members of both government and non-government institutes who are working with women in war affected areas in the country, with knowledge and skills on rights of women affected by conflict in order for them to assist these women to access their rights.

CSHR continued to work with FOKUS this year as well, on Phase II of the project which specifically aims to promote and protect economic, social and cultural rights of women affected by conflict in the Northern and Eastern Provinces; and in Anuradhapura and Puttlam districts. CSHR designed a few innovative programmes, which are not unusual to CSHR, to be implemented in Phase II, towards achieving this objective.

Four Day Training Programme on Legal Referral Service

A four day training programme on legal referral service was successfully conducted from 9-12 September in Anuradhapura.

The main objective of this innovative training programme was to make legal referrals more effective, which in turn will assist women affected by conflict, especially those who are at a low-income level to be able to more effectively access justice.

The training programme was targeted at providing requisite legal knowledge and skills on national and customary laws and legal mechanisms relating to economic, social and cultural rights of women, to selected participants of the Advanced Training Programme (ATP) conducted in 2012 and 2013 and who work closely with women in Anuradhapura and Puttlam districts. The team of trainee Legal Referral Service Providers consisted of both community based rights activists as well as government officials. 18 participants successfully completed the programme.

This four day residential training programme on the referral system consisted of written materials, contact instruction in live training sessions as well as practical exercises.

The training was based on a comprehensive training manual divided into six modules developed specifically for this training.

CSHR and FOKUS believe that at the end of the programme trainees will be competent to provide effective and accurate legal information and referral services to the women in the community affected by conflict in Anuradhapura and Puttlam districts; and to establish and maintain links between legal service providers and women in need of legal assistance. Consequently, CSHR and FOKUS anticipate that there will be a significant change in the economic, social and cultural status of women affected by conflict living in the two stated districts with legal needs and appropriate access to justice.

Two Day Interactive Consultation on Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Three two-day interactive consultations, one each in the Northern and Eastern provinces and one for Anuradhapura and Puttalam districts were conducted successfully.

The objective of these consultations was to strengthen and update the knowledge of government officers who are at the decision making level in order for them to contribute their expertise on economic, social and cultural rights of women, at decision and policy making levels and in designing plans of action regarding women.

The training was based on a manual containing five modules, developed especially for the training.

The training programme targeted at providing knowledge on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights including the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNSCR 1325 and knowledge on Transitional Justice and Women.

The objective of this interactive consultation was to raise awareness and sensitize the target group on economic, social and cultural rights of women in a post conflict context. As a result of the programme, CSHR and FOKUS believe that trainees were sensitised on UNSCR 1325 and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of conflict affected women, where they are competent to make an effective contribution at decision and policymaking levels, which have an impact on women in communities affected by conflict. It is expected that government officers will establish and maintain links with community leaders working for women affected by conflict, in order for them to attain a better economic, social and cultural status.

Each target group consisted of senior officials from Divisional Secretariats, commissions and departments such as Land, Education, Social Services, Agriculture, Local Government and Registrar General. Representatives of the military also participated in the programmes.

Interactive consultations for the target group from the Northern province took place on 20th and 21st of November in Jaffna with 16 participants, for the Eastern province on 27th and 28th of November in Trincomalee with 14 participants and for Anuradhapura and Puttalam on 4th and 5th of December in Anuradhapura with 18 participants. These consultations were carried out through interactive discussions using case studies. This activity was conducted with the financial assistance of Fokus.

Sensitisation on “Well Being of Children in Sri Lanka” for the Military and Police

A series of training programmes on rights of children under the project titled *Sensitisation on “Well Being of Children in Sri Lanka” for the Military and Police* was conducted for Save the Children International, with the objective of sensitising members of the police, Sri Lanka Army and Civil Security Department on rights of children especially in the post war context. The aim of this activity was to convey the message that children are not the property of adults but are individual

rights holders whose rights should be taken seriously and respected. The target geographical areas were the Northern and Eastern Provinces and Anuradhapura district.

In order to achieve the objective of the project, CSHR designed 10 awareness raising programmes for members of the above mentioned target institutes in carrying out their duties. The topics included rights of children, the importance of recognising and respecting the rights of children and the manner in which these rights should be protected. These programmes were carried out in the respective geographical areas.

In addition, a *Follow Up* was carried out to obtain information on whether the officers trained are utilising the knowledge gained from the programme when dealing with children. To obtain this information, twenty seven (27) officers (16 from the police and 11 from the army) were interviewed at CSHR over 4 days.

On 17 December CSHR hosted the Multi Stakeholder Meeting in Colombo, attended by representatives from the police, military, Save the Children International and members of the Board of Management of CSHR. Ms Shermila Antony Perera presented the findings of the evaluation conducted by her, where issues related to children were discussed.

The following is a summary of the programmes carried out under the project.

| No. | Activity | Dates | Venue of the Programme | Medium | No. of Participants |
|-----|---|--|------------------------|---------|---------------------|
| 1 | Awareness raising programme on Child Rights for Law Enforcement Officers- Police Officers | 1 st and 2 nd July | Anuradhapura | Sinhala | 32 |
| 2 | Awareness raising programme on Child Rights for Law Enforcement Officers- Army Officers and Civil Security Officers | 3 rd and 4 th July | Anuradhapura | Sinhala | 24 |
| 3 | Awareness raising programme on Child Rights for Law Enforcement Officers- Police Officers | 22 nd and 23 rd July | Ampara | Tamil | 35 |
| 4 | Awareness raising programme on Child Rights for Law Enforcement Officers- Army Officers and Civil Security Officers | 24 th and 25 th July | Welikanda | Sinhala | 30 |
| 5 | Awareness raising programme on Child Rights for Law Enforcement Officers- | 04 th and 05 th August | Vavuniya | Sinhala | 32 |

| | | | | | |
|----|---|--|------------------------|-------------------|----|
| | Police Officers | | | | |
| 6 | Awareness raising programme on Child Rights for Law Enforcement Officers- Army Officers and Civil Security Officers | 06 th and 07 th August | Vavuniya | Sinhala | 32 |
| 7 | Awareness raising programme on Child Rights for Law Enforcement Officers- Police Officers | 12 th and 13 th August | Jaffna | Tamil and Sinhala | 32 |
| 8 | Awareness raising programme on Child Rights for Law Enforcement Officers- Army Officers and Civil Security Officers | 14 th and 15 th August | Kilinochchi | Sinhala | 30 |
| 9 | TOT programme on Child Rights for Law Enforcement Officers- Police Officers | 14 th and 15 th August | HARTI - Colombo | Sinhala | 36 |
| 10 | TOT programme on Child Rights for Law Enforcement Officers- Army Officers and Civil Security Officers | 04 th and 05 th September | Faculty of Law Colombo | Sinhala | 31 |
| 11 | Follow up of the programme | 11 th , 12 th , 13 th and 14 th November | CSHR | Sinhala and Tamil | 27 |
| 12 | Multi Stakeholder Meeting | 17 th December | Waters Edge | English | 15 |

Knowledge Services

Knowledge services aims to provide multicultural and multidisciplinary knowledge services to keep pace with knowledge on human rights by creating awareness among diverse groups of persons at different levels.

During the year, CSHR provided knowledge to students, academics, researchers and other persons through its Resource Centre, located within its premises.

Resource Centre

The Resource Centre which houses a wide collection of human rights and related materials, added to its collection of books and acts, through the donation made by the 2012/2013 batch of the Students Union of the Faculty of Law. Sets of past papers were also donated by these students. Further, 30 books were also donated by The Asia Foundation.

The number of books in the Resource Centre increased over the year and 175 new books were added to the collection. The number of books available for referencing added up to approximately 2975.

The usual number of core journals was subscribed to, so that latest periodical information was received.

The updated newspaper clippings service in Sinhala, Tamil and English fulfilled the requirement of latest information needed on a wide range of topics. In addition to the undergraduates, other visitors to the Resource Centre, both local and foreign, found the resources available, useful. The material available was also used for the various education and capacity building programmes conducted by CSHR throughout the year.

Online Database

All information on books received and location of journal articles was made available on the library online database and updated throughout the year. With the support received from the National Science Foundation, the library database was hosted on the CSHR website, with a searching facility so that the readers, the university community and the general public could search and locate publications they need, on the internet.

Resource Centre Users

The following memberships were given to all Resource Centre users during the year, for a scheduled period, with the exception of undergraduates having to make a payment. A total number of 702 new undergraduate members joined the Resource Centre as detailed below.

Undergraduate memberships from the University of Colombo

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Faculty of Law | 258 |
| Faculty of Arts | 413 |
| Faculty of Management | 4 |
| Total | 675 |

Memberships from other Universities

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| University of Kelaniya | 2 |
| University of Sri Jayewardenepura | 5 |
| University of Jaffna | 17 |
| Sabaragamuwa University | 1 |
| Sri Pali Campus | 2 |
| Total | 27 |

Total undergraduate memberships 702

Other Memberships

| | |
|-------------|----|
| Per week | 34 |
| Per quarter | 4 |
| Six months | 2 |
| Annual | 3 |
| Total | 43 |

Book Borrowing Facility

Books are permitted to be borrowed only by staff of the Faculty of Law. Twenty members of staff borrowed and returned 120 books during the course of the year.

Photocopy Service

The smooth running of the photocopy service was a great asset to the students during assignment time, when the demand for photocopies was high. A total number of 3215 orders was received during the year.

The number of visitors attending the Resource Centre increased from the previous year, amounting to 14,993.

Print Media

The Resource Centre publicised CSHR activities in the Sinhala, Tamil and English daily newspapers, ahead of the programmes to be conducted.

Institutional Development

Staff Training

CSHR staff participated in the following programmes to enhance their knowledge in relation to Human Rights and their specific areas of work.

| Date | Venue | Programme | Participants |
|------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| 30 January | FGS Auditorium | Orientation Programme on Introduction of New Bank Link Receipting System | Thushari Hewage and Shamila Nadarasa |
| 10 March | Sri Lanka Foundation Institute | Discussion Forum to Raise Your Voice Through Women in Politics. Organised by Samabima Antigone Team on the occasion of Women's Day | Kaushalya Ariyaratna and Rasika Gamage |
| 8–10 May | St. Lachlan Negombo | Capacity Building for CSHR Staff | Director and Staff |
| 25 May–6 June | Mount Holyoke College, USA | Training Programme on Reconstructing Societies in the Wake of Conflict: Transitional Justice and Economic Development | Kushangika Nawaratne |
| 17 June | Hotel Janaki | Presentation of projects of partner organisations of Fokus Women | Nilani de Silva, Kushangika Nawaratne and Rasika Gamage |
| 18 June | Hotel Janaki | Training on Project Reporting by Fokus Women | Thushari Hewage, Kushangika Nawaratne and Rasika Gamage |
| 4 July | Hotel Janaki | Training programme on ESC Rights by Fokus Women | Kushangika Nawaratne and Rasika Gamage |
| 15 -17 September | Bangkok, Thailand | Human Rights and the Security Sector in the Asia Pacific | Prof Sharya Scharenguivel Actg Director, Nilani de Silva, Kaushalya Ariyaratna, Vidura Munasinghe and Thilini Chandrasekera |
| 18 September | FGS | Workshop and Confirmation of Corrections of the Fixed Assets Register | Thushari Hewage |

Three Day Capacity Building for Staff

A three day residential Capacity Building Training for CSHR staff was held from 8th to 10th May at Hotel St. Lachlan, Negombo. The objectives of the training were to identify areas for change and improvement, defining roles, streamlining, rethinking intervention areas, identifying opportunities, sustainability and planning. CSHR's strengths, weaknesses and values were identified and suggestions were made to operationalise them as appropriate within the organisation.

Board of Management

Chairperson

Dr W K Hirimburegama

Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo

Members

Professor Sharya Scharenguivel

Director, CSHR, Professor of Law, Director, Centre for the Study of Human Rights

Mr V T Thamilmaran

Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo

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