



# ANNUAL REPORT 2015



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

**Centre for the Study of Human Rights  
University of Colombo**

**Annual Report  
2015**

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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 Acting Director



I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the CSHR for 2015.

The CSHR continued to impart human rights education, carry out research and provide capacity building and knowledge services to diverse groups of persons.

Education programmes continued from Advanced Training Programmes, Distance Learning and online courses to Master's level programmes. The ongoing collaborative Asia Pacific regional Master of Human Rights and Democratisation as well as its local programme conducted simultaneously in the second semester, continued during the year.

Research comprised carrying out a study on Wanathavilluwa in the Puttlam District in the North Western Province, to explore the deep rooted social factors that shape the conception and practices of violence within a post-war rural society in Sri Lanka.

In the area of Capacity Building, two new projects were embarked on. One was the two year All-inclusive Reconciliation and Development (AiRD) Project in Seruvila and Verugal Divisional Secretariat (DS) divisions in the Trincomalee district. The CSHR collaborated with World Vision Lanka in implementing this project, where for the first time, the CSHR placed staff outside its premises in the University of Colombo, at the World Vision office Trincomalee, as the work was field based. The other was the programme for Youth in the Youth Rehabilitation Centre in Watareka.

I wish to sincerely thank the Vice Chancellor, Dean of the Faculty of Law and the members of the Board of Management of the CSHR for their much valued advice, support and cooperation in enabling the CSHR to carry out its programmes and projects to a wide range of persons ranging from conflict affected women to personnel in community based organisations to government officers and the security forces.

I also take this opportunity to extend my appreciation and gratitude to our funders for their continuous support in recognising the important work carried out by the CSHR. I wish to also thank the staff of the CSHR for their hard work and dedication towards contributing to the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

### **Professor Ravindra Fernando**

*MBBS, MD, FCCP, FCCP, FRCP (Lond), FRCP (Glasgow)*

*FRCP (Edin), FRCPATH (UK), DMJ (Lond)*

*Senior Professor of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology*

*Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo*

## Message by the Acting Deputy Director



It is with pleasure that I present the Annual Report for 2015.

The CSHR conducted a number of educational programmes, spanning from certificate courses to postgraduate degree programmes, engaging in research and conducting community based capacity building programmes towards protecting and promoting human rights.

In terms of research, the CSHR continued to carry out the research in relation to the Project on Enhancing Human Rights Protection in the context of Law Enforcement and Security, in Vanathawilluwa in the Puttlam district; towards identifying social factors that promote violence in a post conflict context.

This year, two new capacity building projects commenced implementation; the All-inclusive Reconciliation and Development (AiRD) project in collaboration with World Vision Lanka in Trincomalee district and the Project on Youth Empowerment, targeting youth offenders at the Rehabilitation Centre in Watareka.

In terms of Institutional Development, the staff was also provided with training on project management, towards understanding programme management, evaluation and touching on concept note and funding, proposal development, donor reporting and budgeting.

My heartfelt thanks to the Vice Chancellor, the Dean of the Faculty of Law and members of the Board of Management for their continued support of the CSHR; the funders without whom the CSHR would not have been able to carry out its work towards protecting and promoting human rights; to all the other partners and persons who worked alongside the CSHR to ensure the success of its activities; and finally to the staff without whom none of this would have been possible.

### **Wasantha Seneviratne**

*LLB (Hons) (Colombo), M.Phil in Law (Colombo), Attorney-at-Law  
Head, Department of Public and International Law  
Faculty of Law, University of Colombo*

## Profile

The Centre for the Study of Human Rights (CSHR) was established within the Faculty of Law of the University of Colombo in 1991, at a time when human rights violations were rampant in the country in the late 1980s; with the objective of making the public aware of rights and remedies for the violation of rights. The Founding Director of the Centre, Dr Deepika Udagama, who was attached to the Faculty of Law at the time, was key in setting up the CSHR.

Over twenty years later, the CSHR continues to carry out programmes and projects under its mandate of human rights education and research. Although the Centre has expanded its programmes over the years, it continues to focus on human rights and related areas towards contributing to a society that is conscious of rights and responsibilities.

Towards this end, the CSHR focused on its four identified areas of work in relation to Human Rights; Education, Research, Capacity Building and Knowledge Services for diverse groups of persons. Education programmes ranged from advanced training programmes to Master's level programmes; Research carried out was aimed at exploring violations within a post-war Sri Lankan rural society as a result of deep rooted social factors. In addition, a follow up study to the Baseline Study on UNSCR 1325 was initiated.

In terms of Capacity Building, selected security and law enforcement officers expanded their projects on the Enhancing Human Rights Protection project towards raising awareness among their colleagues on the need to protect rights within their workplaces.

Further, the project on Uplifting the Socio-Economic and Cultural Status of Conflict Affected Women, capacitated persons who completed the Advanced Training Programme on Women and Peacebuilding in 2012 and 2013 through diverse programmes conducted towards their empowerment, had consultations with government officers and security personnel and conducted a dialogue with academics and civil society.

Knowledge Services comprised mainly in providing users comprising both undergraduate and postgraduate students, researchers, academics and the public with human rights related knowledge through the CSHR Resource Centre.

The final focus area, which is Institutional Development, enables staff to participate in various training and other programmes towards enriching their knowledge and skills to deliver programmes of high quality, efficiently to persons with which the Centre works.

# Activities at a Glance

## HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

### Advanced Training/Certificate Programmes

- Advanced Training Programme on The Law and the Citizen
- Advanced Training Programme on Human Rights (HR) and International Humanitarian Law (IHL)
- Six Month Distance Learning Advanced Certificate in Human Rights Approach to Prison Administration

### Diploma Programmes

- Distance Learning Diploma in Human Rights and Peace Studies
- E Diploma in Human Rights

### Postgraduate Programmes

- Asia Pacific Masters in Human Rights and Democratisation (MHRD)
- Masters in Human Rights and Democratisation (MHRD - Local)

## HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH

- Research on Research on Social Conceptions of Crime and Punishment in a Post-war rural context in Sri Lanka

## CAPACITY BUILDING

- Project on Enhancing Human Rights Protection in the context of Law Enforcement and Security – EHRP
- UNSCR 1325 for Uplifting the Socio-Economic and Cultural Status of Conflict Affected Women
- All-inclusive Reconciliation and Development in Eastern Sri Lanka (AiRD)
- Youth Empowerment Programme at Watareka Youth Rehabilitation Centre
- Programme on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law for the Air Force

## KNOWLEDGE SERVICES

- Resource Centre

## INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Local and International Capacity Building and Training Programmes



## **Education**

Education programmes were initiated by the CSHR in 1996 towards providing basic knowledge to the general public on the concept of human rights and a background to the law of Sri Lanka. Thereafter, in moving towards its vision, educational programmes were designed to enhance understanding of the diverse nature of human rights delivered through non formal educational programmes conducted at national level for State actors and civil society. Target groups comprised undergraduates, graduates, public and private sector personnel, officers of law enforcement agencies and security forces and individuals among others. These programmes vary from a minimum of three months to one year. The CSHR adopts varied student centred methods to impart knowledge through its programmes, while also taking into consideration class composition to ensure quality. The following educational programmes were carried out during the year.

### **Advanced Training/Certificate Programmes**

#### **Advanced Training Programme on The Law and The Citizen**

The objective of this 3 month Advanced Training Programme is to enhance skills and capacity of persons working in the private and public sectors as well as of university students. Those who follow this programme will gain a comprehensive understanding of the Law and its practical application when dealing with legal issues and its application to both individuals and to society.

Ten students successfully completed the course this year.

#### **Advanced Training Programme on Human Rights (HR) and International Humanitarian Law (IHL)**

The objectives of this 6 month Advanced Training Programme on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law are to provide basic knowledge of HR and IHL in developing a system of appreciation of human beings, their individual dignity, rights and means of defending them and to motivate on study of human rights.

This programme was conducted in English a. Nine students successfully completed this course during the year.

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

The objectives of this course are to:

- Enhance the knowledge of prison officers on International Human Rights
- Develop a self-learning study package which is resourceful and time- efficient
- Strengthen the capacity of prison officers by offering a comprehensive knowledge on their rights and responsibilities
- Build up a positive attitude of prison officers towards the rights of prisoners
- Encourage officers to pursue further education related to their work

The Six Month Distance Learning Advanced Certificate in Human Rights Approach to Prison Administration was conducted in the Sinhala medium with 30 Prison Officers successfully completing the programme.

Two Face to Face sessions were held on 1 July and on 15 November, with the third Face to Face session being held next year.

## **Diploma Programmes**

### **Distance Learning Diploma in Human Rights and Peace Studies**

The objective of this programme is to provide academic understanding of the core principles of Human Rights and Democracy with unique consideration to current the trend. Distance mode of education will enable participants who are working at the grassroot level to enhance the necessary skills to further their profession, towards making a positive impact on the protection and promotion of Human Rights and Democracy in the wider society.

The Results of the DLD Peace Studies (Repeat Batch) were released at the end of October. 11 students from the Repeat Batch completed the course in the Sinhala and Tamil mediums (6 students from the Tamil medium and 5 students from the Sinhala medium). This will be the last batch of this diploma.

The Certificate Awarding Ceremony for this batch was held on 12 February 2016 at the FGS Auditorium, College House of University of Colombo. Eleven students received the Distance Learning Diploma in Human Rights and Peace Studies at the ceremony.

### **Distance Learning Diploma in Human Rights and Democracy (DLDHRD)**

The objective of this programme is to provide academic understanding of the core principles of Human Rights and Democracy with unique consideration to current the trend. Distance mode of education will enable participants who are working at the grass root level to enhance the necessary skills to further their profession, towards making a positive impact on the protection and promotion of Human Rights and Democracy in the wider society.

The Results of the 2013/14 batch were released at the end of October. 26 students passed the examination in the Sinhala and Tamil mediums (9 students from the Tamil medium and 17 students from the Sinhala medium).

The First Face to face session of the DLDHRD 2015/16 batch was held on 31 October.

## **E Diploma in Human Rights**

The objective of this one year Diploma programme is to provide an opportunity of studying human rights to those whose activities will have a positive impact on the promotion and protection of Rights or those who wish to pursue a career in the promotion and protection of Rights. The course is primarily for those who have not had an opportunity of obtaining a structured understanding of human rights issues.

The final examination of the 2012/13 batch was held on 17 January and the by-law of the course was revised to provide the opportunity to a wider range of participants to access Human Rights education in e-mode.

## **Postgraduate Programmes**

### **Asia Pacific Masters in Human Rights and Democratisation (MHRD)**

**2014/15**

MHRD is a combined master's degree programme conducted in collaboration with the University of Sydney and 4 other partner Universities (University of Colombo – coordinated by the CSHR; Kathmandu School of Law, Nepal; Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia; and Mahidol University, Thailand.)

The Specific objective of the MHRD programme is 'through higher education, to increase the capacity for the improved respect of human rights and democratic principles in the Asia-Pacific region, by training specialists in human rights and democratisation so that they may be better equipped to advocate for, promote awareness of and encourage respect for human rights and democratic principles, both across the region and within their local and national communities'.

This year 6 international students followed the programme in the second semester at the University of Colombo. The inauguration of the programme was on 23 January at the University of Colombo.

This is the fifth batch of students who are following the international Masters at the University of Colombo. The Chief Guest at this inauguration was Ms Robyn Mudie, Australian High Commissioner, while Mr K Kanag-Isvaran, President's Counsel was the Guest of Honour. High Commissioners and Ambassadors of countries from where students were, also participated at the event. In addition to the Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo, teaching staff of the MHRD programme and CSHR staff also participated.

The following students followed the programme at the University of Colombo. Of the 6 students, 2 were internship students and 4 were dissertation students.

1. Meredith Stuebe (Australia) – Internship at Fokus Women
2. Wenise Kyungeun Kim (Australia) – Dissertation on Convention on Genocide and Crimes against Humanity
3. Khurram Saleem (Pakistan) – Dissertation on policies related to rights of IDPs
4. Boyu Fan (China), Internship at the International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES)
5. Phillip David Wardle (Australia) – Dissertation on Transitional Justice and International Law in relation to institutions in a post conflict situation
6. Nusrat Zehra Zaidi (Pakistan) – Dissertation on Media and Freedom of Expression

## **Capacity Building Programme on Project Management**

The CSHR held a successful two-day residential Capacity Building workshop on for its staff in April at Laya Beach Resort Wadduwa, funded by the Asia Pacific Masters in Human Rights and Democratisation.

The workshop was facilitated by Ms Georgina Wheadon, Project Manager, International Projects, The University of Sydney. Ms Wheadon has significant experience in programme management and she currently coordinates two international projects (education and research) for The University of Sydney with five partner universities in the Asia Pacific region.

The workshop covered programme management, programme evaluation, concept note and funding proposal development, donor reporting and budgeting using latest techniques and models

## **Proposal Writing Workshop for CSHR Staff**

CSHR conducted an in-house workshop on Proposal Writing for its staff on 22 October. The workshop was facilitated by Mr Gehan Gunatilleke, Attorney at Law and Consultant, Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (MHRD) programme, who has significant experience in proposal writing. The workshop covered proposal writing and development using the latest techniques and models.

This programme was funded by the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC) through the University of Sydney.

## **Masters in Human Rights and Democratisation (MHRD - Local) 2015/16**

The Masters Degree Programme on Human Rights and Democratisation (MHRD – Local) is conducted jointly with the Asia Pacific Master’s programme in the second semester.

Following are the 13 students who enrolled in the programme in 2015/16. These students are from diverse backgrounds, including legal, academic, banking, theology, military and NGOs.

1. Ms. Tehani Ariyaratne
2. Ms. Vimukthi Caldera
3. Ms. Mahesha de Silva
4. Mr. Priyantha Gamage
5. Ms. Niluka Gamalath
6. Ms. Kusala Goonathilaka
7. Ms. Priyanthi Hettiarachchi
8. Mr. Sidath Marambe
9. Mr. Murshid Munshif
10. Mr. Asmi Mustafa
11. Ms. Roshani Muthugala
12. Ms. Lasanthi Pemadasa
13. Mr. Oshada Rodrigo

The inauguration of the programme was held on 20 August at the University of Colombo. This is the second batch of students who will follow the Local Masters at the University of Colombo.

Professor Jayadeva Uyangoda, former Head of the Department of Political Science and Public Policy, University of Colombo, was the Keynote Speaker at this event. In addition, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Senior Professor Lakshman Dissanayake, teaching staff of the Faculty of Law, teaching staff of the MHRD programme and CSHR staff participated in the inauguration.



Inauguration of DLDHRD and ATPs at  
Faculty of Law



Inauguration of the Six Month Distance Learning  
Advanced Certificate in Human Rights Approach  
to Prison Administration at the Faculty of Law,  
University of Colombo



Inauguration of Asia Pacific (Regional) MHRD  
at Senate Hall, University of Colombo



Inauguration of MHRD (Local) at Senate Hall, University of Colombo



## Research

### Research on Social Conceptions of Crime and Punishment in Post-war rural Sri Lanka

A research was carried out in Wanathavilluwa in Puttlam District in the North Western Province in order to explore the deep rooted social factors that shape the conception and practices of violence within a post-war Sri Lankan rural society.

The primary research question was: ‘What are the relevant social, cultural, ideological and political factors in the district of Wanathavilluwa that cause, normalise or legitimise the use of violence by police?’ To answer this question, the following secondary questions were formulated.

- What are the patterns of violence in the area?
- What are people’s attitudes towards violence?
- What type of relationship exists between the police and different sectors of society?
- Which groups or individuals are involved in settling disputes or dealing with human rights violations in the area?
- How is power distributed in the area?
- What are some of the principal social problems and who deals with them?
- How do different groups perceive human rights?

During the data collection period, 60 semi structured in-depth interviews, 8 Focus Group Discussions, a survey (with the participation of 180 respondents) and 4 technical mapping activities (a tool adopted from Development Studies) were conducted. A number of important events in the area and daily operations of the key institutions in the area were observed. The Final research report was published as Issue Paper 9 of the EHRP Project by the University of Sydney, Australia. This research will also be published in Sinhala and Tamil.



Mapping Exercise by the Community

## **Capacity Building**

### **Project on Enhancing Human Rights Protection in the context of Law Enforcement and Security – EHRP**

The EHRP project which commenced in 2012 was completed at the end of March this year. During the year, five Human Rights Protection Facilitators (HRPFs) from the Armed Forces and Police expanded on their projects conducted in the previous year in relation to the protection and promotion of human rights in their workplaces. These projects were evaluated by an external evaluator.

The final Steering Committee meeting was held on 21 January via a conference call. Professor Sharya Scharenguivel former Acting Director of the CSHR and CSHR's Acting Deputy Director, Ms Wasantha Seneviratne participated in this call to discuss the final activities; evaluation (in country and external); final reporting; publications; matters concerning the international conference; and future funding.

A Reference Group meeting was held on 17 March where Professor Scharenguivel briefed members of the Reference Group on the progress made on the project. She informed that HRPFs were given in depth knowledge on implementing projects in relation to their workplaces prior to implementation of their projects. Professor Scharenguivel also informed the Reference Group that some HRPFs had the opportunity to make presentations based on their projects at the international conference held in Bangkok in September 2014. The Acting Director, Professor Ravindra Fernando and Acting Deputy Director, Ms Wasantha Seneviratne also attended the Reference Group meeting.

Ms Anushika Amarasinghe, Consultant, carried out an evaluation of all the projects implemented by the HRPFs in Phase I of the EHRP Project. A final project evaluation was conducted by Ms Emma Walters from 14 - 20 February.

As a follow up of the project, a diploma was designed specifically for the Sri Lanka Police Department, which is expected to commence next year.

This project is funded by the EU through the University of Sydney.

### **UNSCR 1325 for Uplifting the Socio-Economic and Cultural Status of Conflict Affected Women**

The CSHR launched Phase II of the Fokus Project in 2014 under the theme 'Women, UNSCR 1325 and the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR)' with the financial support of the Forum for Women and Development (FOKUS), a Norwegian non-governmental organisation. The project aims at implementing interventions based on United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 to uplift the socio-economic and cultural status of conflict-affected women in the Northern and Eastern Provinces; and in Anuradhapura and Puttalam districts in Sri Lanka. The CSHR was able to enhance the knowledge and skills of diverse groups of participants



including the public sector, non-government and community based organisations, academia and civil society on economic, social and cultural rights of women in a post-conflict context.

This year, the CSHR carried out a number of activities for those who are working towards the wellbeing of women affected by conflict and for those who are advocating for the protection and promotion of economic, social and cultural rights of women especially during the war and in a post conflict context. While some of these activities were designed newly others were follow ups of the activities that were carried out in the previous year.

A group of approximately 40 selected women's rights protectors were trained in two Five Day Residential Training Programmes held in Negombo. The target group consisted of both public officers and community based organisations of all ethnicities, who had completed the Advanced Training Programme on Women and Peacebuilding in Phase I of the project. The objective of this programme is to capacitate the participants on advocating for protecting and promoting the economic, social and cultural rights of women in a post conflict context. Participants were provided with a comprehensive handbook on theories and tools of defending economic, social and cultural rights of women, prepared by the CSHR. In addition, an intensive programme coupled with a field visit was carried out for the above group of participants in Trincomalee.

Further, the CSHR carried out a dialogue between academia and civil society with the aim of providing each party a platform to share their experience on research and operational work in relation to addressing socio-economic issues of women in a post conflict context. Academics representing most universities in the country and a number of community based organisations participated in this dialogue. The CSHR prepared advocacy documents on protecting women's rights in a post-conflict context based on the discussion of the Dialogue. These advocacy documents will be disseminated among academics, university students and other stakeholders to facilitate action.

Apart from the new interventions, the CSHR carried out follow up programmes of the Paralegal Training Programme and the three Interactive Consultations with Government Officers and the Military at the Decision-making level, which were completed in 2014 to assess the impact of these programmes after one year. The CSHR prepared two Follow up reports based on the feedback received from the participants themselves, and the community who was the ultimate beneficiary of the programmes.

This project is funded by Fokus.

### **All-inclusive Reconciliation and Development in Eastern Sri Lanka (AiRD)**

The overall objective of the project is to 'Strengthen a democratic environment of inclusive reconciliation through rights-based development in Verugal and Seruvila DS divisions, Trincomalee district'. Towards this end, the CSHR initially conducted two Advanced Training Programmes (ATPs) namely *The Law and The Citizen* and *Women's and Children's Rights* in Seruvila and Verugal Divisional Secretariat (DS) Divisions in order to promote awareness of human rights and access to legal and alternative dispute resolution services. After reviewing the 254 received applications 100 persons were selected for both programmes.

During the initial discussions that the CSHR had with government officers, NGO workers and civil society activists in the area, the CSHR identified the need to address legal and social issues in the area by developing tailor made content for both courses. Accordingly two panels of authors (Sinhala and Tamil mediums) were involved in developing curricula and course material for the 2 ATPs.

The Advanced Training Programme on *The Law and The Citizen* was held from 1 August to 12 September and the Advanced Training Programme on *Women's and Children's Rights* was held from 19 September to 17 October.

All 100 participants were given a study pack containing two course books, a file containing the Articles of the UDHR in all three languages, notebooks, pens and extra reading materials (booklets on Women's Charter of Sri Lanka, Domestic Violence Act, Elder's Rights, Labour Rights and a summary of the LLRC Report).

Out of 100 participants 93 persons completed both ATPs successfully and 6 participants completed only one of the courses. There was only one drop out.

Out of the 93 participants who successfully completed both ATPs, 30 persons were selected to be appointed as Referral Coordinators to help the community to provide referral services for legal issues of members of the community. A two day workshop on providing Referral Services to the community was organised for the 30 selected Referral Coordinators (7 and 8 November in the Tamil medium and 28 and 29 November in the Sinhala medium).

Referral Coordinators were appointed from 16th December and commenced work officially.

1000 Booklets containing contact details of government and non-government officers of the area were printed in order to be distributed among key community actors in the two DS Divisions.

Mr Thyagaraja Waradas, Lecturer, Department of International Relations, University of Colombo, was the consultant for the research to be carried out in order to develop 6 Advocacy Action Plans. He designed a two day workshop for the research team consisting of 18 ATP participants, all 30 selected Referral Coordinators, all 11 AiRD mobilisers in the two DS Divisions and 17 Women Rural Development Society (WRDS) members in the two DS Divisions numbering a total of 76 persons.

During the workshop, the research team was divided into sub research teams based on their GN Division and they were requested to commence designing their research according to the respective Grama Niladhari (GN) Division during the workshop. One month was given to them to work as sub research teams and to come up with their identified proposals.

This project is funded by the EU through World Vision Germany.

## **Youth Empowerment Programme at Watareka Youth Rehabilitation Centre**

The CSHR received a grant from the Embassy of the United States of America in Colombo to carry out a project at the Watareka Youth Offenders Rehabilitation Centre under the 'Youth Empowerment' Programme of the Embassy. The main objective of the project is to develop a programme towards improving the image of and empowering youth offenders of the Youth Rehabilitation Centre to a life of dignity and value. Sessions include leadership, counselling and personality development as well as activities that will enable 40 youth offenders to interact and bond with their extended families towards their successful reintegration into society, upon their release.

The CSHR in collaboration with the Department of Prisons identified the need to reach out to youth offenders in the Watareka Youth Rehabilitation Centre, towards enabling them to a life of dignity and value. The rehabilitation process within the Sri Lankan prison system does not adequately address this key social issue, which eventually leads to a failure of the rehabilitation process itself.

The CSHR met with the Commissioner General of Prisons on 22 October to obtain permission to conduct the programme and carry out research at the Watareka Youth Offenders Rehabilitation Centre.

This project is funded by the US Embassy, Colombo.

## **Programme on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law for the Air Force**

Three 3 Day programmes are conducted each year for the Junior Command and Staff Course of the Air Force, since 2008. In addition to officers of the Air Force, Army and Navy personnel also participate in this programme.

The objectives of the programme are as follows.

- To provide a comprehensive understanding of international human rights law and international humanitarian law together with comparative Sri Lankan Law to officers of the Armed Forces
- To develop skills of officers of the Armed Forces to operationalise their duties in a manner that protects and respects the rights, dignity and values of fellow human beings

Three 3 day programmes were conducted for the 47<sup>th</sup>, 48<sup>th</sup> and 49<sup>th</sup> batches through the Junior Commanders and Staff Course on the following dates: from 11-13 March, 8-10 July and from 3-5 November respectively for a total of 71 officers.

This programme is funded by the Air Force.



Keynote Speaker, Dr Radhika Coomaraswamy at the Dialogue on UNSCR 1325 and Women in Sri Lanka: Moving towards a Better Tomorrow with Lessons Learnt from Yesterday, Colombo – Fokus Project



5 Day Residential Training Programme on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of Women in a Post Conflict Context, Negombo – Fokus Project



3 Day Programme on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law for Officers of the Air Force at the Faculty of Law and CSHR



ATP on The Law and The Citizen, Verugal,  
Trincomalee – AiRD Project



ATP on Women and Children, Verugal,  
Trincomalee – AiRD Project



2 day Workshop for Referral Coordinators at  
Verugal Pradeshiya Sabha, Trincomalee



Initial discussion with Youth Offenders of  
Watareka Youth Rehabilitation Centre –  
Youth Empowerment Project



Teaching about Drama to Youth Offenders of  
Watareka Youth Rehabilitation Centre –  
Youth Empowerment Project

## 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 number of books in the Resource Centre increased over the year and 92 new books were added to the collection. The number of books available for referencing added up to approximately 3067.

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	245
Faculty of Arts	185
Total	430



**Memberships from other Universities**

University of Kelaniya	3
University of Sri Jayewardenepura	4
University of Jaffna	13
University of Peradeniya	3
Total	23

Total undergraduate memberships 453

**Other Memberships**

Per week	25
One month	5
Per quarter	3
Six months	1
Annual	22
Foreign (2 months)	1
Total	57

**Book Borrowing Facility**

Books are permitted to be borrowed only by staff of the Faculty of Law. Seventeen members of staff borrowed and returned 60 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 2735 orders were received during the year.

The number of visitors attending the Resource Centre increased from the previous year, amounting to 13,318.

**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

## Local and International Capacity Building and Training Programmes

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

Date	Programme	Participants
<i>January</i>		
5 - 16	Training Programme on Human Rights and Asia, Seoul National University, South Korea	Rasika Gamage
10 - 19	Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (MHRD) Steering Committee Meeting at the University of Mahidol, Bangkok, Thailand	Prof. Sharya Scharenguivel Gehan Gunatilleke
<i>March</i>		
11 – 12	2 Day Start Up Workshop of the All-inclusive Reconciliation and Development (AiRD) project at Hotel Ocean, Colombo, conducted by World Vision Lanka	Prof. Ravindra Fernando Ms Wasantha Seneviratne Nilani de Silva Thushari Hewage Vidura Munasinghe Nirosha Ruwanpathirana T Gajendrakumar
13	AiRD Project - workshop organised by World Vision Lanka at Hotel Ocean	T Gajendrakumar
23 – 24	Drama Workshop at Hotel Janaki, organised by the Fokus Project	Rasika Gamage Ziana Zakeem
<i>April</i>		
28 - 29	Capacity Building Workshop on Project Management at Laya Beach Hotel, Wadduwa	All Staff
<i>May</i>		
18 - 29	Sydney School for Critical Social Thought, Australian Catholic University	Vidura Munasinghe
26	Launch of the Fokus Research on Post War Trends: Child Marriage in Sri Lanka, at ICES by Fokus Women in collaboration with the Ministry of Child Affairs	Kushangika Nawaratne Rasika Gamage
<i>June</i>		
30	Consultation Session with Civil Society at the BMICH, organised by the Resettlement Authority	Nilani de Silva Chathuri Jayawardana
<i>July</i>		
30	Launch of the three research studies on Status of Female Heads Households (FHH) in Puttalam, Anuradhapura and Ampara, by Fokus Women	Kushangika Nawaratne Nirosha Ruwanpathirana



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*August*

11	Discussion on <i>Truth and Reconciliation and Women in South Africa</i> with the South African High Commissioner at the South African High Commission in Colombo	Kushangika Nawaratne Rasika Gamage
12	Mapping Exercise of the Fokus Project at Fokus Women	Kushangika Nawaratne Rasika Gamage
27	Pre-bid Meeting with the UNDP, Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration Division, Ministry of Public Administration	Kushangika Nawaratne Thilini Chandrasekera

*September*

11	Thematic discussion on sharing best practices on documentation and Access to Justice Workshop at the International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES) Organised by Fokus Women	Kushangika Nawaratne Rasika Gamage
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*October*

20-21	Training on Transitional Justice Mechanisms workshop at Hotel Renuka. Organised by the National Peace Council of Sri Lanka	Kushangika Nawaratne
22	Session on Writing Project Proposals for CSHR Staff conducted by Gehan Gunatilleke	Project and other Staff
26	Social Media Training workshop organised by Fokus Women at the American Centre	Kushangika Nawaratne Rasika Gamage Thilini Chandrasekera

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2 day Workshop on  
Project Management for  
CSHR Staff at Laya  
Beach Resort, Wadduwa



Session on Proposal Writing for CSHR Staff at the  
CSHR

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**Ruwan Chandrasena**



## **Acknowledgements**

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