

Karainagar

Chavakachcheri

Puttalam

Mahiyanganaya

Bibile



ANNUAL REPORT 2019



CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF HUMAN RIGHTS
UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO
SRI LANKA

Annual Report 2019

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Our Vision

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

Our Mission

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

Our sincere gratitude to you

Our journey would not have been possible without our valuable donors -National Child Protection Authority, Department of Police, Department of Prisons, Air Force, the University of Mahidol, civil society organisations and partners who collaborated with the CSHR in spreading the message of human rights among the wider community.



Message by the Director

It is with great pleasure that I present this message for the Annual Report 2019.

This year the CSHR conducted a number of educational programmes ranging from certificate courses to postgraduate degree programmes, engaged in research and conducted capacity building programmes towards protecting and promoting human rights.

CSHR Added two new programmes to its education programmes this year, namely the advanced training programme & certificate course on child care upon the request of the Department of Probation and Childcare, Sri Lanka. These two programmes are mainly

targeted at the care takers employed in the child care institutions attached to the Department of Probation and Childcare, Sri Lanka. These two programmes expect to enhance the necessary knowledge, skills and perceptions of personnel who are in direct contact with children at child care institutions. The Masters' Programmes (MHRD), Postgraduate Diploma in Child Protection and Rights (PGDCPR) were continued successfully in this year too along with other Diploma and certificate courses. CSHR collaborated with the FRIENDS Organisation in facilitating to the students in the Puttlam area through the Certificate Course on Human Rights and Fundamental Rights.

This year the CSHR reinstated the community project by establishing five new community coordinating centers in four selected administrative districts in Sri Lanka to revive the concept of 'Community Centres', in order to address the human rights and legal issues at grass root level. This project is carried out in collaboration with the FRIENDS Organization.

CSHR strives to expand its reach to a wider audience in making a wider community aware of human rights through its services and programmes for years to come with the support of the partners of the CSHR whose duty and responsibility lies towards creating a culture of and respect for human rights towards the development of the nation.

My heartfelt gratitude to the Vice Chancellor, the Dean of the Faculty of Law and the members of the Board of Management for their continued support of the CSHR; to all the other partners and persons who worked alongside with the CSHR to ensure the success of its activities, and finally to the staff without whom none of this would have been possible.

Professor Wasantha Seneviratne

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Message by the Acting Deputy Director



M. A. M. Hakeem

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Senior Lecturer, Department of Public and
International Law, Faculty of Law, University of
Colombo*

It is with great pleasure I pen this message for the Annual Report of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights.

During the year, CSHR conducted a number of educational programmes in propagating human rights concepts and basic principles towards protecting and promoting human rights.

CSHR has successfully carried out educational programmes ranging from certificate to post graduate level while two new education programmes was added to enhance the necessary knowledge, skills and perceptions of personnel who are in direct contact with children at child care institutions.

Another landmark event in this years' calendar was the establishment of five new community coordinating centers in four selected administrative districts in Sri Lanka to revive the concept of 'Community Centres', in order to address the human rights and legal issues at grass root level.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge with appreciation the support from all our partners and the staff in realizing our mission to propagate human rights values across Sri Lanka. I wish to thank the funders of CSHR, Professor Chandrika N Wijeyarathne, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Indira Nanayakkara, the Dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor. Wasantha Seneviratne, Director, and the members of the Board of Management for their valuable support.

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Our Profile

Centre for the Study of Human Rights (CSHR), was established in 1991 in response to extensive human rights violations in Sri Lanka at the time period. It was set up as a non-profit organisation within the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, with the objective of making the public aware of their rights and remedies for the violation of rights. CSHR has been a pioneer of human rights education for more than 28 years with its mandate of Human Rights Education, Research and Capacity Building .

The CSHR continues to believe in the primary goal of Human Rights Education as a vital component in building a Human Rights culture throughout society; where the principles of peace, respect for diversity, and economic and social justice are maintained. This goal is pursued through the content and methods employed in the educational programmes of the CSHR. This view places importance not only on the content of the programmes, but also on ways that

education seeks to build up attitudes and behaviour patterns which reflect a culture of Human Rights. CSHR offers Advanced training programmes, Certificate Courses, Diploma programmes Higher Diploma, Postgraduate programme and Masters under CSHR Education Programmes.

In terms of Research, the CSHR carries out practically applicable research in relation to rights and also conducts research for other Government and Non-Government Organizations. CSHR also works towards strengthening the capacity of those in Government and Non-Government sectors with the aim of protecting and promoting their rights as well as making them aware of rights of their stakeholders. Over the years, the CSHR reached out to many 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.

CSHR also facilitates capacity building programmes in disseminating human rights knowledge and knowledge services through its Resource Centre rich in a wide range of human rights resources. The beneficiaries include students, academics, researchers and the general public. Membership of the resource centre is free of charge for all the registered students of the CSHR.

CSHR also focuses in Institutional Development facilitating the capacity building of the staff to improve their knowledge, skills and capacities towards disseminating programmes to CSHR's partners effectively and efficiently.

The CSHR's goal is to create a nation with a rights consciousness in which the dignity and rights of all people are respected.



What We Offer

- Human Rights Education
- Capacity Building
- Knowledge Sharing

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

Human Rights Education is one of the thematic areas under the CSHR mandate. The education programmes were launched back in 1996 with the intention of providing the basic knowledge on Human Rights to the general public to suit the country's need at the period. In par with its vision CSHR make use of formal educational programmes that cater to different educational levels with the aim of enhancing the understanding of the multidimensional nature of human rights. Target groups of these programmes consists of state actors, undergraduates, graduates, private sector entities, officers of law enforcement agencies, security forces and the general public. 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. The following educational programmes were carried out during the year.

MASTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATISATION – APMA PROGRAMME

The one year Asia Pacific Master's degree programme was launched in 2010 in collaboration with partner universities of the Asia Pacific region, including the University of Sydney (the coordinating partner), Mahidol University (Thailand), Universitas Gadjah Mada (Indonesia) and Kathmandu School of Law (Nepal) and the Ateneo de Manila Law School (the Philippines).

The Welcome Reception and the Orientation of the International Students for the second semester of the 2019/20 academic year was held on 1 February with the participation of five international students, CSHR Staff, Law faculty staff and MHRD resource persons.

The introductory lecture on the “Introduction to Legal Systems of Sri Lanka” was conducted by Professor Sharya Scharenguivel in order to give a clear picture on legal system of the country

The following international students followed the international programme

1. Ojaswi KC (Nepal)
2. Saittawut Yutthauorakool (Thailand)
3. Yakobus Fahik (Indonesia)
4. Ika Kurnia Riswandari (Indonesia)
5. Shraddha Pokharel (Nepal)

The Asia Pacific Master of Human Rights and Democratisation programme is co-funded by the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation.

MASTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIZATION (LOCAL) PROGRAMME

The local Master's degree programme was introduced in 2014 parallel to the Asia Pacific programme to cater to the local student community who prefer to extend their knowledge on Human Rights in Sri Lanka. The Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (MHRD) programme conducted by the Centre for the Study of Human Rights (CSHR), is a multidisciplinary programme of study (a Master of Arts degree) catering to mid-career professional from diverse academic and professional backgrounds. 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.

The programme is linked to the Asia Pacific Regional Programme, currently coordinated by the University of Mahidol in Thailand, and hence, students have the opportunity to interact with a group of international students from the Asia Pacific Region (including South Asia) in the Second Semester. Thailand.

Eleven Students graduated at the convocation held on 6th December at BMICH.

Inauguration of the Master of Human Rights and Democratisation 2019/2020 concluded successfully at Faculty premises on 07th of October. Sixteen students were selected for the local Master's degree programme.

On behalf of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights, Faculty of Law, the University of Colombo Director, Academic Coordinator and the Coordinator of MHRD participated in the steering committee meeting held on Thailand on 14 January to 18 January.



The students engaged in two field visits as part of their learning process. The students visited the Center for Policy Alternative (CPA) to gain knowledge about the Sri Lanka's Constitutional reform process on 5 February and National Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka on 12 February on an information session on the functions, mandate and its responsibilities.

DISTANCE LEARNING DIPLOMA IN HUMAN *RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY* – *DLDHRD*

The Certificate Awarding Ceremony of the Distance Learning Diploma in Human Rights and Democracy (DLD-HRD) was held at the New Arts Theater, University of Colombo, on 13th December 2019 at 1.00 p.m. 55 Diploma holders of the Distance Learning received certificates at the event.

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 of obtaining a structured understanding of human rights issues and whose activities will have a positive impact on the promotion and protection of Rights.

Eighteen students sat the end of year examination for the batch of 2018/19 held on 13th December.

The Certificate Awarding Ceremony for the 2017/18 batch was held at the New Arts Theater, University of Colombo, on 13th December 2019 where 12 Diploma holders received certificates at the event.

DIPLOMA IN HUMAN RIGHTS BASED POLICING

This Diploma was designed based on the findings of the project on Enhancing Human Rights Protection (EHRP) implemented by the CSHR and the Kathmandu School of Law, Nepal, in collaboration with the University of Sydney, Australia. This programme intends to formulate the tested strategy into a formal training programme designed especially for Police personnel in Sri Lanka.

The programme is offered in both Sinhala and Tamil mediums with funding from the Department of Police.

Forty Seven awardees received the Diploma at the Certificate Awarding Ceremony held at the New Arts Theater, University of Colombo, on 13th December 2019.

CERTIFICATE IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

The inauguration of the Certificate in Human Rights and Fundamental Rights was held at the Centre for the Human Rights, Faculty of Law on 2nd February.

ADVANCED TRAINING PROGRAMME AND CERTIFICATE ON CHILD CARE

The advanced training programme & certificate course on child care are two new programmes designed by the Centre for the Study of Human Rights upon the request of the Department of Probation and Childcare, Sri Lanka. These two programmes are mainly targeted at the care takers employed in the child care institutions attached to the Department of Probation and Childcare, Sri Lanka. These two programmes expect to enhance the necessary knowledge, skills and perceptions of personnel who are in direct contact with children at child care institutions.

The two programmes cover the areas of Child Development, Child Rights, Child vulnerability, Institutionalization and alternative care, Skills and Capacities required to deal with children at risk and the technical skills needed to make institutional setting a better place.

The content was delivered by 10 highly qualified multidisciplinary pool of professionals attached to the University of Colombo, Department of Probation and Childcare, International Planned Parenthood Federation, SOS CV SL etc. representing the fields of Law, Sociology, Social Work, Psychology, Medicine, Institutional Management and Leadership.

Inauguration of the batch of 2018/2019 of both programmes was held at the premises of faculty of Law on 24th of June.

A Workshop on “Leadership and Stress Management in Working Environment” was held on 7th December. The workshop was conducted by Mr. A. L. Manjula Liyanage, the Global Capacity Building Officer, International Planned Parenthood Federation.

These two academic programmes are coordinated by Centre for the Study of Human Rights, University of Colombo in collaboration with the Department of Probation and Child Care.

INAUGURATION OF THE MASTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATISATION [LOCAL] PROGRAMME - 2019/2020

07 OCTOBER, 2019



MHRD DEGREE HOLDERS RECEIVE CERTIFICATES AT THE POSTGRADUATE CONVOCATION 5TH & 6TH DECEMBER 2019



ADVANCED TRAINING PROGRAMME & CERTIFICATE COURSE ON CHILD CARE

WORKSHOPS ON

"LEADERSHIP AND STRESS MANAGEMENT IN WORKING ENVIRONMENT" [DECEMBER 2019]



CAPACITY BUILDING

PROGRAMME ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW FOR JUNIOR COMMANDERS OF THE AIR FORCE

Since 2008, The CSHR has been conducting three 3 Day programmes annually for the Junior Command and Staff Course of the Air Force, where officers of the Army and Navy also participate. This programme is collaboratively conducted by the Centre for the Study of Human Rights (CSHR) and Sri Lanka Air Force. The programme conducts four times a year as per the request made by Sri Lanka Air Force. The aim of this programme is to provide considerable theoretical and practical knowledge on International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law for both Sri Lankan and foreign middle ranked armed forces officials who are nominated by the relevant authorities.

In 2019, there were more than ten foreign officials including Pakistan, India, China, Nepal, Bangladesh and USA. The sessions conducted by a dynamic range of resource persons from Faculty of Law, Attorney General's Department, ICRC and private practitioners in order to ensure the practical and theoretical aspects covered.



WORKSHOP ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMMUNITY RESEARCH

A workshop on Human Rights and Fundamental Rights and Community Research for the community leaders was organized by The Centre for the Study of Human Rights University of Colombo (CSHR) in collaboration with Forum for Rural Income & Environmental Development Services Guarantee Limited (FRIENDS) concluded successfully in 11th and 12th of June at Thaladena Community Education Centre.

The programme was mainly targeted to enhance the knowledge of the community coordinators on Human Rights and Community research.

WORKSHOP ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMMUNITY RESEARCH THALAHENA

11 & 12 JUNE 2019



WORKSHOP ON ACADEMIC WRITING

Academic writing entails more than just good writing skills. It is a combination of reading ability, critical thinking and academic research, among other things. The aim of this workshop was to provide some ‘insights’ into academic writing. It is intended that participants take-away some learning tools and the way forward, to further improve their academic writing skills.

An academic writing skills workshop was organised by the Centre for the Study of Human rights for Academic Staff of the Faculty of Law, Students of the Master of Human Rights Programme and Staff of the CSHR on 14th and 15th of June 2019 at Hotel Mandarin, Colombo.

The workshop was conducted by Professor Naazima Kamardeen of Faculty of Law, Professor Dushyanthi Mendis of Faculty of Arts and Dr. Asela Olupeliyawa of Faculty of Medicine of the University of Colombo.



DEVELOPMENT OF A TRAINING CURRICULUM, MANUAL AND TOOLS ON IDENTIFICATION, REPORTING AND INVESTIGATION OF CHILD TRAFFICKING (SINHALA/TAMIL/ENGLISH MEDIUM) IN SRI LANKA.

This project was implemented by the CSHR with the financial assistance of National Child Protection Authority and Save the Children International, Sri Lanka from 14th June 2018 to 14th June 2019.

HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS PROGRAMMES FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THE COMMUNITY

Human Rights Awareness Programmes were organized by Forum for Rural Income & Environmental Development Services Guarantee Limited (FRIENDS) in collaboration with The Centre for the Study of Human Rights, University of Colombo (CSHR)

- **Mahiyanganaya**

Awareness programme on **Human Rights and Right to Information** was held on 10th of July at Mahiyanganaya mainly targeting to enhance the knowledge of the community on their rights and access to justice. Mr. Dumidu Madushan (Attorney-at-Law) from Right to Information Commission and Mrs. Lekha Herath (Attorney-at-Law) from CSHR conducted the programme as resource persons.

- **Bibila**

Awareness programme on **Human Rights and Right to Information** was held on 11th of July at Bibila mainly targeting to enhance the knowledge of the government officials on Human Rights, Fundamental Rights and Right to information Act. Mr. Dumidu Madushan (Attorney-at-Law) from Right to Information Commission and Mrs. Lekha Herath (Attorney-at-Law), Kusal Kavinda Amarasena(AAL) from CSHR conducted the programme as resource persons.

- **Puttlam**

Awareness programme on **Human Rights and Right to Information** was held on 29th of August 2019 at Puttlam mainly targeting to improve the knowledge of the civil society on Human Rights, Fundamental Rights and Right to information Act.

The objective of this project is to enhance the awareness of the community on their rights and how to access to justice. Mr. Kusal Kavinda Amarasinghe (Attorney-at-Law) Ms. Pavithra Rajendran (Attorney-at-Law) and Ms Lekha Herath (Attorney-at-Law) from CSHR facilitated the programme as resource persons.

Through this programme, CSHR donated a collection of valuable academic resources to the Library of the Puttlam Community Center.

- **Jaffna**

Awareness programme on Human Rights and Right to Information was held on 23rd September at Chavakachcheri and Kareinagar mainly targeting to enhance the knowledge of the government officials on Human Rights, Fundamental Rights and Right to information Act. Mr, A.Saraweswaran Senior Lecturer of the Faculty of Law, Mr. Hakeem Senior Lecturer Faculty of Law, Acting Deputy Director of the CSHR conducted the programme as resource persons.

HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS PROGRAMME MAHIYANGANAYA 10 JULY 2019



HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS PROGRAMME BIBILA 11 JULY 2019



HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS PROGRAMME – PUTTLAM 29 AUGUST 2019



LEGAL AID CLINIC FOR COMMUNITY

A Legal Aid Clinic for community was organized by the CSHR Community Centre of Bibila at the Divisional Secretariat of Bibila on 3rd December. A hotline for Legal Advice also established at the CSHR. This project is funded by FRIENDS Organisation



CSHR hotline for Legal Advice : 0112503021

Project Funded by: FRIENDS Organisation



WORKSHOP “BEYOND BLACK LETTER LAW: WHAT CRITICAL SOCIAL THEORY MIGHT ADD TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF LAW IN SOCIETY”

A Workshop organized with the theme “Beyond Black Letter Law: What Critical Social Theory Might Add to our Understanding of Law in Society” by the Centre for the Study of Human Rights, University of Colombo in collaboration with Goldsmiths, University of London and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council with the focus on the Researchers and Law lecturers was held on 4th December at TBC. The aim of the workshop is to provide a space for developing critical perspectives on law that will complement existing technical disciplinary expertise. Dr Kiran Grewal (Associate Professor) in Human Rights at Goldsmiths College, University of London facilitated this interactive discussion.



ADVANCE TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE AND RULE OF LAW IN SRI LANKA

A collaboration of CSHR and International Bridges to Justice

International Bridges to Justice is a Geneva based non-governmental organisation committed to promoting the rule of law in developing countries. The Centre for the Study of Human Rights, University of Colombo having a memorandum of understanding is currently implementing a project to advance Transitional Justice and Rule of Law in Sri Lanka.

Project Activities

- **Public Defender Service Legislature**

A discussion was held with the Head of the Legal drafting Department, which is the governmental body drafting the legislature for the country on the possibility of drafting a Public Defender Service Legislature. Representing the University, Ms Dhanushika Abayarathne(Lecturer, Faculty of Law), Ms. Sumudu Wijesooriya (Project Coordinator _PGDCPR) Ms Ziyasa Johardeen (Assistant Project Coordinator) participated with Ms. Aislynn Brown (Representing IBJ) to the discussion. The legal draftsman elaborated the possibility of passing such a legislature in this country and she advised on how to proceed with this Draft Bill. She recommended few previous legal drafters who worked under the Drafting department and introduced them to Ms. Aislynn Brown, Project Manager, IBJ.

- **Criminal Law Case Database**

Cases in nature of Criminal, specifically related to torture for creating are collected for a database contain case law related to violations of fundamental rights. Two interns were assigned to collect the Related cases from the supreme court, court of Appeal which are the courts of first instance and High court of western province.

- **Criminal Defense Skills Training Workshop**

A workshop was held for criminal defense lawyers who are practicing in Colombo from 13th to 15th of September at the golden crown hotel, Kandy. The workshop covered the Role of the Defense Lawyer, Rights of the Accused, Interviewing Clients Who Were Tortured, Developing the Theory of the Case, Direct and Cross Examination, etc;.

This project was conducted in collaboration with IBJ (international bridges to justice).

HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH

RESEARCH ON “INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS IN SRI LANKA: A STUDY ON EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION GAP”

The main objective of the community research is to understand the gap between the institutional rights mechanisms and the practical implementation of human rights and fundamental rights in Sri Lanka. This will further support to identify potential ways of strengthening the access to justice of grassroots communities and make policy recommendations. This community research can increase attention to the complex issues of the knowledge gap that compromise the rights of people living in marginalized communities. Because such research requires grassroots work in the community, it enables the CSHR and FRIENDS to fully understand the unique local realities that may either impede or facilitate community interventions. In fact, recognition of the inequities in human rights knowledge among identified communities and how they are associated with poverty, inadequate resources, lack of employment opportunities, gender, social hierarchies among many more other factors may lead to a renewed recognition that individuals are embedded within social, political, and economic systems that shape behaviours and access to justice.

Data collection was carried out by the research team at Chavakachcheri and Karainagar on September and at Mahiyanganaya, Bibila and Puttlam in December.



Research Team at Mahiyanganaya Adivasi (Vaddas) Community village (December 2019)

Data collection in Mahiyanganaya and Bibila (December 2019)



Data collection in Chavakachcheri and Karainagar (September 2019)



Data collection in Puttlam (December 2019)

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Through knowledge sharing CSHR 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.

CSHR RESOURCE CENTRE

The number of books in the Resource Centre increased over the year with 155 new books being added to the collection. The number of books available for referencing added up to approximately 3,804.

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.

Donations

A generous donation of publications was received from Professor Kumari Jayawardena, Professor Wasantha Seneviratne, Director; Mr. M A Hakeem, Acting Director; Ms Rasika Mendis, former Academic Coordinator MHRD and Ms. Kaushalya Ariyaratne, Academic Coordinator MHRD of the CSHR.

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. 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 413 new undergraduate members joined the Resource Centre as detailed below.

Undergraduate memberships from the University of Colombo

Faculty of Law	232
Faculty of Arts	171
Faculty of Education	10
Total	413

Other Memberships

One day	16
Per week	15
One month	01
Per quarter	17
Six months	15
One year	02
Total	66

The number of users attending the Resource Centre for the year was 4,923 as users have been requested to sign in only once for the day.

Book Borrowing Facility

Books are permitted to be borrowed only by staff of the Faculty of Law. Twenty members of staff borrowed and returned 85 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 818 orders were received during the year.

During the year 2019 CSHR Resource Centre was closed from 10th April to 27th May for New year and thereafter for security reasons due to the Easter Sunday Attacks and also on 10th September to 14th October due to trade union action of the University Non-Academic staff.

SPECIAL EVENTS

ESTABLISHMENT OF FIVE NEW COMMUNITY CENTRES IN SRI LANKA

From 1994 to 2012, there were 74 community co-ordination centers all over the country conducted by the Centre for the Study of Human Rights. These Community Centers has provided a guide to address the legal issues of the rural communities and to educate them on Human Rights.

As an extension to the previous project for the year 2019-2020, CSHR established five new community coordinating centers in four selected administrative districts in Sri Lanka. This project is organized under the auspices of the Forum for Rural Income & Environmental Development Services (FRIENDS) Guaranteed Limited.

The main objective of the initiative of five Community Centres across the country, is to revive the concept of 'Community Centres', in order to address the human rights and legal issues at grass root level.

The identified five Centres will represent all three major ethnic communities in Sri Lanka and diverse geographical locations as follows;

1. Northern Province - Jaffna District - Karainagar
2. Northern Province - Jaffna District - Chavakachcheri
3. North West Province - Puttlam District - Puttlam
4. Uva Province - Badulla District - Mahiyanganaya
5. Uva Province - Moneragala District - Bibile



Apart from fair representation across the country, there are several other reasons to select the above five areas. At first, FRIENDS has been working in the areas and has already established firm relationships with the communities and has identified the need for community centres. Secondly, there

are numerous identified social issues prevalent in these areas; such as lack of proper education, poverty, gender based violence, alcohol and drug abuse, discrimination and marginalization, that can be largely addressed by strengthening the capacities of the respective communities.

The opening ceremony of Chavakachcheri community Centre and Awareness Programme on Human Rights, Fundamental Rights and Right to Information Act

The opening ceremony of Chavakachcheri Community Centre and an awareness programme on Human Rights, Fundamental Rights and Right to Information Act was held at Kodikamam on 23rd of September.

The main objective of this programme was to enhance the knowledge about 'Human Rights and Fundamental Rights' of the community. This programme was organized by the Centre for the Study of Human Rights, University of Colombo (CSHR) in collaboration with the Forum for Rural Income & Environmental Development Services Guarantee Limited (FRIENDS). Community Centre of Chavakachcheri was opened by Mr. M.A.M Hakeem (Acting Deputy Director of CSHR, University of Colombo) and Mr. Bandula Wijesinghe (Chairperson/ Programme Manager, FRIENDS). Mr. A. Sarveswaran (Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo) contributed as the resource person for the awareness programme.

Chavakachcheri is the largest Divisional Secretary Division in Sri Lanka which includes total 60 'Grama Niladhari' Divisions. More than 200 of government officials participated in this programme.

Opening Ceremony of Karainagar community Centre and Awareness Programme on Human Rights, Fundamental Rights and Right to Information Act

The opening ceremony of Karainagar Community Centre and an awareness programme on Human Rights, Fundamental Rights and Right to Information Act: was held at Karainagar on 24th of September.

The main objective of this programme was to enhance the knowledge about 'Human Rights and Fundamental Rights' of the community.

Community Centre of Karainagar was opened by Mr. A. Sarveswaran (Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo) and Mr. Bandula Wijesinghe (Chairperson/ Programme Manager - FRIENDS).

Deputy Director of CSHR, Mr. M.A.M Hakeem (Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo) and Mr. A. Sarveswaran (Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo) contributed as the resource persons for the awareness programme.

Karainagar is a tiny island which includes total of nine 'Grama Niladhari' Divisions. More than 75 of government officials participated in this programme.

This programme was organized by Centre for the Study of Human Rights, University of Colombo (CSHR) in collaboration with Forum for Rural Income & Environmental Development Services Guarantee Limited (FRIENDS).

**THE OPENING CEREMONY OF CHAVAKACHCHERI
COMMUNITY CENTRE AND AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON
HUMAN RIGHTS, FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND RIGHT TO
INFORMATION ACT
KODIKAMAM**

23 SEPTEMBER 2019



**OPENING CEREMONY OF KARAINAGAR COMMUNITY CENTRE AND
AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON HUMAN RIGHTS, FUNDAMENTAL
RIGHTS AND RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT**

24 SEPTEMBER 2019



COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY – 2019

The international Women's Day 2019 celebration was held at the Centre for the Study of Human Rights in collaboration with National Saving Bank (NSB), Bambalapitiya on 15th March. A panel discussion moderated by Dr. Kokila Konasinghe was conducted with the participation of Dr. Rose Wijeyesekera, , Prof. Wasantha Seneviratne and Mr. M.A.M. Hakeem on the theme of “A Smart Women for a Smart World”. This discussion was conducted for the staff of Faculty of Law and CSHR and the students of the Faculty of Law and Arts focusing abuses and discriminations face by women in public transport.



CERTIFICATE AWARDING CEREMONY – 2019

The Award Ceremony of the CSHR was held at the New Arts Theater, University of Colombo, on 13th of December 2019 at 1.00 p.m. Two hundred and Twenty two awardees from the Human Rights Diploma Based policing, E Diploma on human Rights, Distance Learning Diploma on Human Rights, Advanced Certificate Course on Human Rights and Fundamental Rights and ATP on human Rights in Puttlam received awards at this special occasion. Senior DIG of the Special Task Force, Mr M. R. Latheef graced the occasion as the Chief Guest while many distinguished guests from the armed forces, faculty of law and donors participated for the event.

CERTIFICATE AWARDING CEREMONY 2019

13 DECEMBER 2019



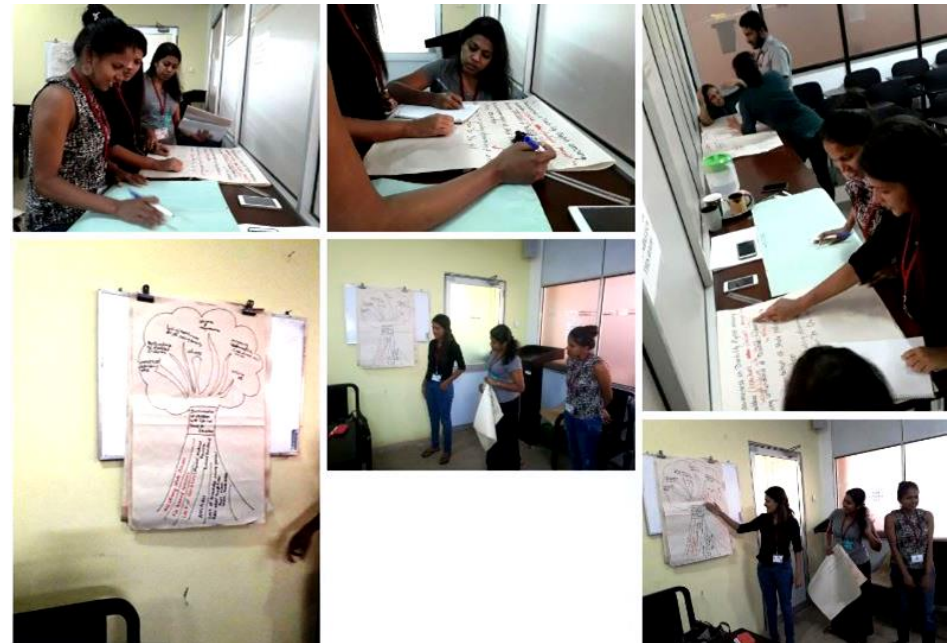
CSHR TEAM

- Institutional Development
- Administrative Pillars
- Our Team

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

WORKSHOP ON PROJECT PROPOSAL WRITING

A workshop for the Project & Research staff, organized by Centre for the Study of Human Rights was held on 14th and 15th of May 2019 at CSHR. The main objective of the workshop was to enhance the knowledge on 'project proposals writing'. The workshop was conducted by Ms, Kaushalaya Ariyaratne(AAL) Consultant, CSHR.



CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CSHR STAFF



CSHR Staff capacity building programme was held at Hotel Amari Galle on 4th and 5th of August.

The focus of the programme was to identify the personal strength and cater it to institutional development. Further, the sessions was with relation to building Soft Skills such as Self Esteem and Self Confidence, Thinking out of the box and lateral thinking, Factors influencing attitudes, Value of time and prioritizing work, How to manage difficult situations, Strategic leadership, The group that serves together grows together and Negotiation skills, Process and practical way of decision making among others. The programme consisted with brainstorming sessions, role plays and many group activities.

The resource persons for the programme was Mr Prasanna Kamalsiri Perera Senior Lecturer NSBM Green University who is a Psychological Counselor, Career guidance counselor and a trainer by profession with assistance from Mr.Sanath Nishantha Mallikaarchchi, a musician by profession.

This programme was funded by the MHRD Programme.



ADMINISTRATIVE PILLARS

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

CHAIRPERSON

Senior Professor Chandrika N Wijeyaratne
Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo

MEMBERS

Professor Wasantha Seneviratne
Director, CSHR
Head, Department of Public and International Law, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo

Professor Indira Nanayakkara
Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo

Deshabandu Jezima Ismail
Chancellor, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka

Ms Manouri Muttetuwegama
Barrister, Attorney-at-Law

Mr Prasantha Lal De Alwis
President's Counsel

Deshamanya Dr Radhika Coomaraswamy

Mr Geoffrey Alagaratnam
President's Counsel

Mr Nigel Hatch
President's Counsel

Professor Neloufer de Mel
Department of English, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo

Dr Chandani Liyanage
Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo

Emeritus Professor Ravindra Fernando
Professor of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Professor Indira Nanayakkara, Dean, Faculty of Law
Professor Wasantha Seneviratne, Director, CSHR
Mr MAM Hakeem, Acting Deputy Director, CSHR
Professor Neloufer de Mel, Department of English
Mr. Prasantha Lal De Alwis, President's Counsel

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Professor Indira Nanayakkara, Dean, Faculty of Law
Professor Wasantha Seneviratne, Director, CSHR
Mr MAM Hakeem, Acting Deputy Director, CSHR
Mr Nigel Hatch, President's Counsel

OUR TEAM

DIRECTOR

Professor Wasantha Seneviratne,

LL.B. (Hons.)(University of Colombo), M.Phil (University of Colombo), Attorney-at-Law, Head and Senior Lecturer, Department of Public and International Law, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo

ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Mr M. A. M. Hakeem LL.B. (Hons.)(University of Colombo), LL.M. (Malaya), Attorney-at-Law
Senior Lecturer, Department of Public and International Law, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Accounts Officer/ Acting Admin Officer

Thushari Hewage, ICASL Intermediate

Accounts Assistant/ Deputy Finance Officer

Shamila Piranavaruban, ICMA Managerial Level

Secretary/ Receptionist

Kunthala Sewwandi Fernando Advanced Diploma in Secretarial Proficiency and Company Administration

Administrative Assistant

Sanitha De Silva (Up to March 31)

Tharanga Gunasekara MAAT, NVQ Level 4 in ICT Technician

Nisansala Gurusinghe Advanced Diploma in Business Management, NVQ Level 4 in ICT Technician

Office Assistant

Luxman Wijelal

PROJECT STAFF

Academic Coordinator - MHRD

Rasika Mendis, Attorney at Law, LLB, Pg.Dip (Econ), LLM (UK)

Consultant

Kaushalya Ariyaratne LLB, Attorney at Law

Project Coordinator/ Acting Project Manager

Lekha Herath, LL.B (University of Colombo),

Attorney-at-Law, MA in Sociology (University of Colombo)

Project Coordinators

Sumudu Wijesooriya, BA (Hons) in Sociology (University of Colombo)

B. A. Sunethra, BA in International Relations (Hon. Sp) (university of Colombo)

Sabitha George, BA (Hons) (Special Degree in Geography) (First Class)

Project Coordinator (IBJ Programme)

Ziyasa Johardeen, LLB (Hons) (University of Colombo) (From August)

Assistant Project Coordinators

Pavithra Rajendran, LLB (Hons) (University of Colombo)

Kusal Kavinda Amarasena LLB (Hons) (University of Colombo)

Moodle Administrator

Thilini Chandrasekera, BSc. Special (Hons) IT (SLIIT), PGD in International Relations (BCIS)

RESOURCE CENTRE STAFF

Assistant Librarian/ Documentation and Information Officer

Mahesha Abeywickrema ALA (Sri Lanka), PGD in Library and Information Sciences (University of Colombo), Dip in Journalism (University of Colombo)

Library Attendant

Ruwan Chandrasena

Intern

Anjalee Chethana