



NEWSLETTER

CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF HUMAN RIGHTS — CSHR— UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

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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.

Certificate Awarding Ceremony

The Certificate Awarding Ceremony of the Distance Learning Diploma in Human Rights and Democracy, E-Diploma in Human Rights, Distance Learning Advanced Certificate in Human Rights Approach to Prison Administration and the Advanced Training Programme in Human Rights and Fundamental Rights, conducted by the Centre for the Study of Human Rights, was held on 4th December at College House, University of Colombo.

Mr. K.A.S. Edward, Registrar of the University of Colombo graced the occasion. Among other distinguished guests were Ms. Indira Nanayakkara, Dean, Faculty of Law; Professor Sharya Scharenguivel, Acting Director of the CSHR; Ms. Rose Wijeyesekera, Head-Department of Private and Comparative Law, Faculty of Law; Dr Kokila Konasinghe, Academic Coordinator-Distance Learning Diploma in Human Rights and Democracy; Ms Nishara Mendis, Academic Coordinator-E Diploma in Human Rights; Ven. Buddhiyagama Chandarathana, Coordinator of the Puttlam Community Centre, Mr. Bandula Wijetunga, Chairman-FRIENDS. 53 Diplomates and 63 certificate level students received certificates at the event.

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CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF HUMAN RIGHTS-UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO
CERTIFICATE AWARDING CEREMONY
DISTANCE LEARNING DIPLOMA IN HUMAN RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY
E DIPLOMA IN HUMAN RIGHTS - 2015/16



CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF HUMAN RIGHTS-UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO
DISTANCE LEARNING ADVANCE CERTIFICATE IN HUMAN RIGHTS
APPROACH TO PRISON ADMINISTRATION-2017



MHRD Inauguration

The academic year 2017/18 of the MHRD (local) programme was inaugurated on 25 August. The inauguration marks the fourth year of this multi-disciplinary postgraduate degree that explores the nexus between democratic governance and the realization of human rights.

In keeping with its broad approach to academia, the MHRD inaugural keynote address focused on the theme - *Trajectory of Constitutional Reform in Sri Lanka - Implications for National Development and Reconciliation.*



Inauguration - MHRD 2017/2018 (Local)



Given the current political mandate to engage in Constitutional reform, and in keeping with the substance of the MHRD, the address outlined the implications of Constitutional reform, not just for general governance and well-being, but also for continued political reform and socio-economic development that is holistic and relevant to all segments of the national population. Dr Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu of the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA), a prominent academic and activist was invited to deliver the keynote address.



First Panel Discussion

10th November

The first panel discussion was organized by MHRD on *Minority*



rights and internal self-determination in Sri Lanka and explored, among other things, the conceptual framework relating to the emerging principles

of ‘internal self-determination’ and the varied ways in which the concept of ‘self-

determination’ has been understood and promoted by both minority and majority nationalist groups in Sri Lanka. Notably, the Supreme Court case, popularly referred to as the “Sixth Amendment case” was discussed for its precedent setting



determination relating to minority protection in Sri Lanka. The expert panel comprised – Dr Kalana Senaratne, Lecturer, MHRD, Dr. Asanga Welikala, Constitutional Expert and Mr. Niran Anketell, Attorney at Law and Legal Counsel. The session was moderated by Ms Rasika Mendis, Academic Coordinator, MHRD.

Second Panel Discussion

8th December



The second panel discussion, on *Sequencing Transitional Justice; implications for Constitutional Reform and Human Rights* discussed some practical considerations of implementing post-conflict transitional justice in a realistic programme of action that is supported by

cohesive policy and legislative reforms. The concept of 'sequencing' (a policy tool relevant to any context of development) was presented by Dr Isabelle Lassee, as being of particular importance to transitional contexts, where policy-makers and experts often required to propose and carry out a wide range of reforms to deal with the past, address the root causes of violence, and strengthen institutions and democratic processes. The particular experience of minority groups, as is relevant to Sri Lanka's context of transitional justice, was discussed; Dr. Farzana Haniffa presented the multi-faceted experiences of the minority Muslim community, highlighting the complexities inherent even among one community, in the transitional context. Ms. Bhavani Foseka



Panel Discussion - Sequencing
Transitional Justice

then discussed the trajectory of political commitment to Constitutional reforms that has potential to strengthen transitional justice and long term political stability. The session was moderated by Mr Gehan Gunatilleke.

CSHR Staff Capacity Building Programme

The Capacity building programme for CSHR Staff was held on 27 and 28 July at Avani Resort, Kalutara. On Day One, Ms. Sabrina Esufally, Analyst and Head of Law of Verite Research was the resource person. She focused on *Identifying Problems that Bother You*, *Gathering the Information You Need* and *Communicating Ideas*, in relation to research. A group activity was given to emphasise the impartation of knowledge in relation to the session.

The resource person on Day Two was Mr Prasanna Perera, Senior Counselor and Trainer in Human Resource Development. The session he focused on was in 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.



E-Diploma in Human Rights 2017/18

Inauguration and Orientation

The Inauguration and Orientation of the E-Diploma in Human Rights 2017/18 batch was held on 16 September at the CSHR. Dr. Pradeepa Wijetunge, Librarian of the Main Library of the University of Colombo, delivered a keynote address on E-Learning. She shared her experiences and lessons learnt through E-Learning programmes and how E-Learners should make the most of the resources and time to achieve the best from E-Learning platforms. 17 students participated in the programme.

The Orientation was held following the inauguration, covering the following topics:

Introduction to the Moodle Learning Management System, Introduction to Human



Rights, Session on Writing Assignments, Referencing and Plagiarism. The session was facilitated by the Moodle Administrator and the Academic Coordinator, Ms. Nishara Mendis. Students were provided

with facilities to log into the system and become familiar with the learning environment.



Distance Learning Diploma in Human Rights and Democracy – DLDHRD

Results were released in August, with 50 Students completing the 2015/2016 batch successfully and the Certificate Awarding Ceremony being held on 4 December at the FGS Auditorium.

Distance Learning Advanced Certificate in Human Rights Approach to Prison Administration

27 students successfully completed the programme with the Certificate Awarding Ceremony being held on 4 December at the FGS Auditorium.

Certificate Course in Human Rights and Fundamental Rights

The inauguration and first session of this programme was held on 1 July at the District Secretariat in Puttlam. This programme was funded by Forum for Rural Income & Environmental Development Services (FRIENDS – Guarantee Limited). 33 students successfully completed the programme with the Certificate Awarding Ceremony being held on 4 December at the FGS Auditorium.

Diploma in Human Rights based Policing

The course commenced on 23 September with Ms. Wasantha Seneviratne, Academic, Coordinator, being the resource person for the first session.

Human Rights Day

Ms. Wasantha Seneviratne, Acting Deputy Director, CSHR, Dr. Prathibha Mahanamahewa, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law and Lekha Herath, Project Coordinator, CSHR participated in the Human Rights Day programme organized by FRIENDS on 6 December at the Divisional Secretariat, Puttlam.

New Books at CSHR Resource Centre



A generous donation of over 100 publications from Mr. John Hucker, Former Secretary General, Canadian Human Rights Commission was added to the CSHR Collection at the last year.

The publications cover the following subject areas: Human Rights, International Law, Democracy, Israel-Palestine Conflict, UN, Jurisprudence, Multiculturalism, Ethnic Conflict, Philosophy of Law among others.

54th and 55th Junior Command and Staff Course

CSHR conducts a programme on *Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law* as part of the Junior Command and Staff Course of the Sri Lanka Air Force. Participants of this programme are middle ranked officers.

Programmes on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law for the 54th and 55th batches were held from 17 to 19 July and from 13 to 15 November 2017 respectively.



There were 25 participants for the 54th Junior Command and Staff Course; 22 from the Sri Lanka Air Force; 1 from the Sri Lanka Army; 1 from the Indian Air Force and 1 from the Bangladesh Air Force.



There were 30 participants for the 54th Junior Command and Staff Course; 25 from the Sri Lanka Air Force; 2 from the Sri Lanka Army; 1 from the Sri Lanka Navy, 1 from the Indian Air Force, 1 from the Bangladesh Air Force and 1 Nepalese from the Army Air Service.





CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF HUMAN RIGHTS
UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

NO CAUSE CAN JUSTIFY THE ABUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

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Resource Centre

**Located within the CSHR premises,
Faculty of Law, University of Colombo**

**OPEN: Monday to Friday: 8.30 am to
4.00 pm**

Saturday: 9.00 am to 12.30 pm

Available References:

- **Approximately 3000 books in all three languages**
- **30 titles of journals, pamphlets, bulletins and newsletters**
- **UN, Amnesty International, ICRC and other reports**
- **Photocopy Service available**
- **Online Database**

PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED BY CSHR

- **Master of Human Rights and Democratisation - Local Programme**
- **Master of Human Rights and Democratisation - Asia Pacific Regional Programme, in collaboration with Mahidol University, Thailand**
- **Distance Learning Diploma in Human Rights and Democracy**
- **E-Diploma in Human Rights**
- **Advanced Training Programmes**
- **Postgraduate Diploma in Child Protection and Rights**
- **Diploma in Human Rights based Policing**

