

ANNUAL REPORT







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01 RIGHT TO LIFE HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE

Name	:	Right to Life Human Rights Centre
Year of Establishment	:	2002
Address of Establishment	: :	No. 555, Negombo Road, Kurana, Katunayake, Gampaha District, Western Province
Current Address	:	No. 07, Koppiyawatta Road, Colombo 09, Western Province.
Founder Members	:	Mr. Brito Fernando, Ms. Jayanthi Dandeniya, Mr. Philip Dissanayake
Vision	:	A multi ethnic and multi religious society of citizens of citizens that protect justice, equality, respect for life.
Mission	:	To be placed as an active Centre for establishing a society against human rights violations including torture, extra judicial killings, enforced disappearances standing for national harmony and democratic reforms

Objectives:

- Human Rights Torture, Extra judicial Killings and Enforced Disappearances
- Democracy Constitutional Reforms, Rule of Law

Activities:

- Advocating for Justice for Victims of Torture, Related Extra Judicial Killings, Disappearances and Human Rights Violations
- Victim and Community Action against Human Rights Violations Including Torture and Extra-Judicial Killings
- Fostering Democracy, Independence of the Judiciary, Human Rights, Rule of Law and Accountability through a New Constitution and Judicial Reform
- Building a People's Movement and Civil Society Coalition for Resolving Ethnic Conflict through Constitutional Reform
- Research, Training, Advocacy, Public Education/Campaign, Social mobilization and Legal
- (Filing and following cases against torture, extra judicial killings, enforced disappearances and other fundamental rights violations, Creating Human Rights Defenders, Training Programs, Workshops, Public Seminars, People's Tribunals, People's Assembly, Campaigns, Street Protests, maintaining 11 Human Rights First Aid Centers)

Networks: Sri Lankan Committee Against Torture (SLCAT), Human Rights First Aid Centres, Platform For Freedom (PFF), Change with Reforms, National Movement for New Constitution (NMNC), Civil Society Collective for Democracy, People Against Torture (PAT)

International Relations:

- Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum Asia)
- South Asian Collective for Strategy Litigation
- Asian Network against Torture

Success Stories:

- Human Right First Aid Centers
- Creating Human Rights Defender Groups
- Conducting Education sessions on Human Rights
- Training of Trainees
- Preparing UN CAT Shadow Report of Sri Lanka
- Follow up and Monitor recommendation given by UN CAT to Sri Lanka
- Maintains Websites related to Human Rights issue (on Torture and Democratic Rights)
- Social Media campaigns on human rights and democratic rights issues (Facebook)



02 MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Philip Dissanayake Executive Director- Right to Life Human Rights Centre

Sri Lanka was declared from British colony on February 4, 1948 as a free state. We were unable to create an environment that would secure basic democratic rights, including equality, ethnic harmony, individual freedom, fundamental rights, and other cultural and economic rights, even after completing 71 years of independence.

Since there was a continued decline in democratic governments, there was a huge discourse among the civil society, and, as a result, a plan was presented to nominate a common candidate for the Presidential Election and to build a National Government to win basic democratic reforms. The Civil Society was responsible for the implementation of this plan and succeeded on 08, January 2015. Accordingly, the progressive people of this country took the initiative to form a national government on August 2015, bringing together the two main parties operating in Sri Lanka.

There were practical problems in appointing a common candidate as the President and establishing a National Government, but in the first quarter of this national government, a significant democratic reform has been won which was necessary for the country in comparison to the other 67 years since independence. Although this national government has had a lot of criticism, the 2015-2018 periods will be in history as four years, which a great deal of political reform was granted after Independence.

The year 2018 was the year in which social reforms were carried out, and the Right to Life Human Rights Organization made a major contribution to that endeavour. We were given our maximized contribution to the public awareness campaign to inform the public about independent commissions like Human Rights Commission, the Police Commission, to inform the Victims about Crime and Victims Protection Act, the Information Act, the structures put in place by the state to establish a transnational justice and the new constitution.

For that, we have established the Human Rights First Aid Centers in 11 districts. Taking part in a series of activities related, deriving the public attention on brutal torture and extra judicial killings, we declared a week to ensure a campaign to support victims of torture concurring with the day of support for the victims of torture. On December 10, Human Rights Day, together with other human rights organizations and trade unions, led by us.

Also, in the year 2018, we were able to create a broad discussion by engaging different experts from different fields through Aithiya and Right to Life websites which is being operated by us.

In the meantime, our organization has contributed to defeat the political instability on October 26, 2018, in order to restore the stability and the growth of the country.

2019 is a challenging year due to elections. 2019 is a year in which to re-establish the rights that we have won so far, and by using those rights and to create the necessary environment for achieving other democratic reforms to general public.

10.02.2019

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A multi ethnic and multi religious society of citizens of citizens that protect justice, equality, respect for life.

MISSION

To be placed as an active Centre for establishing a society against human rights violations including torture, extra judicial killings, standing for national harmony and democratic reforms.

Sub Missions



Victim and community action against human right violations including torture and extra-judicial killings

Advocating for justice for victims of torture related extra-judicial killings, disappearance and human right violations.

Fostering democracy, Independence of the Judiciary Human Rights, Rule of Law, and Accountability through a new constitutions and Judicial reforms

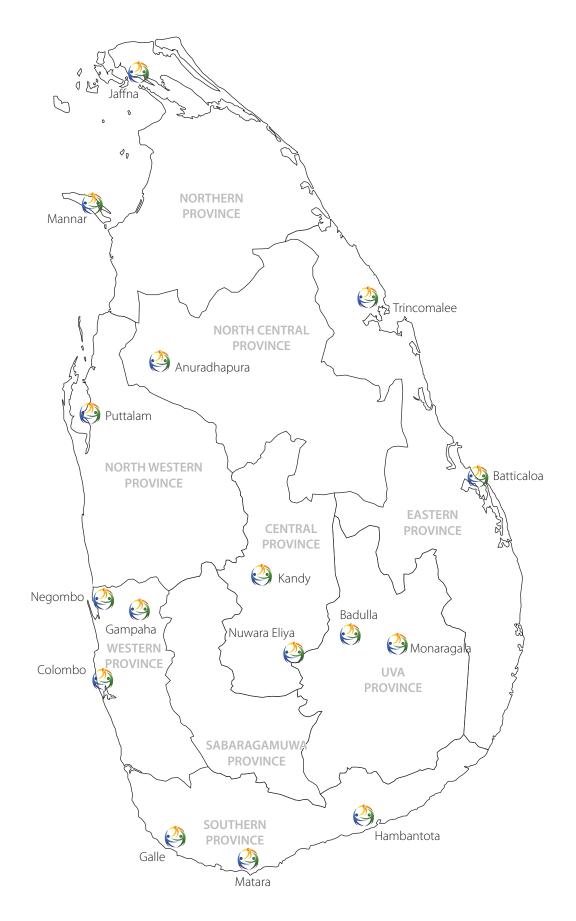
Building a people's movement and Civil Society Coalition for resolving ethnic conflict through constitutional reforms.

Institutional learning and Developments.

6



04 WORKING AREAS



7



05 WORKING CONTEXT

2018 is a year that has been marked in the history of Sri Lanka, since the political context. The year that underwent so many crises after the end of ethnic conflict in 2009. The country was edging towards the new constitution and has been promoting new policies and acts that brings benefit to the people but at the same time country has been facing challenges in major sense due to the constitutional coup, which is being highly motivated many other countries on how the democracy of Sri Lanka is being ensured with the 19th Amendment to the constitution.

The role of the Civil Society is being reassured and the need of for the democratic nation is being broadcasted in 2018. The citizens of the country had been standing for their own rights comparing to the recent past. The State and the Independent institutions that have been working on rights based and for rights have been working according to their mandate and there is a visible progress. Right to Life Human Rights Centre has been working in this political context by addressing the identified gaps and ensuring the protection of promotion of human rights as well as democracy.





06 PROGRAMMES (ACTIVITIES)

6.1. Workshop for Human Rights Defenders Groups on Committee Against Torture

On 17th and 18th February 2018, Right to Life Human Rights Centre organized a workshop for Human Rights Defenders, Activists, Civil Society representatives, Community Leaders from selected eight districts on explaining Recommendations given by United Nations Committee Against Torture (UN CAT) to Sri Lankan government.

Mr. Anthony Vinoth, explained the objectives of the workshop and gave an introduction about the workshop. Mr. Pubudu Randima, Legal Coordinator of Right to Life Human Rights Centre explained in brief the UN CAT recommendations; Mr. Philip Dissanayake explained the basic concepts and fundamental human rights. Ms. Ermiza Tegal, AAL, conducted a session on Optional Protocol, Mr. Ruki Fernando, Human Rights Activist shared his experience on International Mechanisms that prevail to protect and promote human rights.



"CAT ahasin maha polowata" (CAT from sky to earth) booklet which was written by Mr. Pubudu Randima LLB, was used as a main tool of the workshop. The booklet was the simplified form of the United Nations Committee Against Torture recommendations. There were around 44 members representing eights Districts (Galle, Matara, Hambantota, Gampaha, Badulla, Monaragala, Nuwaraeliya and Trincomalee) present at the workshop.

6.2. Meeting of Civil Society Collective against Torture

Meeting of Civil Society Activists for the prevention of torture held on 16th June 2018 at Renuka City Hotel Colombo. In the meantime, the discussion on the preparation of the Sri Lanka Joint Alternative Report for the Convention on Torture and the Prevention of Torture is discussed at the meeting. In addition, the functioning of the Human Rights Commission and the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture Survivors which is to be on June 26th is discussed at the meeting.

At the meeting, Ms. Sulari Liyanagamage, Acting Deputy Director of Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka on Inquires and Investigation Division, Mr. Philip Dissanayake, Executive Director of Right to Life, Mr. Prabodha Rathnayake AAL, Executive Director of Rights Now Collective for Democracy, Mr. Anthony Vinoth, Coordinator of Sri Lankan Civil Society Collective Against Torture and Mr. Pubudu Randima LLB, Legal Officer of Right to Life Human Rights Centre put forward their opinions at the discussion then there was time for an open forum. The current situation of Torture and the Law Enforcement, National Action Plan for the Protection Promotion of Human Rights, the operation of the Human Rights Commission on Torture and space for the Civil Society to work along with the Human Rights Commission, was discussed at the meeting.





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6.3. Training Programmes

Right to Life Human Rights Centre has been carried out two kinds of training programmes in the districts for human rights defenders who have been in the Human Rights First Aid Centres in both old and new. Basic Trainings have been designed and carried out in newly established five districts Gampaha and Nuwara Eliya (functioned by Right to Life Human Rights Centre), Jaffna, Mannar and Batticaloa (functioned by National Peace Council) and old Human Rights First Aid Centres (in Gampaha, Galle, Matara, Hambantota, Badulla and Monaragala) have been functioned by Right to Life Human Rights Centre under the European Union grant.

Opening of the new Human Rights First Aid Centres have been carried out after the training programmes and along with it a publicity campaign of the human rights first aid centres in all eleven districts were conducted.

District	Date
Jaffna	08 th August, 13 th & 14 th October
Mannar	06 th August, 15 th & 16 th October
Galle	19 th & 20 th October
Batticaloa	17 th August, 23 rd & 24 th October
Gampaha	26 th & 27 th October
Matara	02 nd & 03 rd November
Trincomalee	11 th August, 08 th & 09 th November
Hambanthota	13 th & 14 th November
Monaragala	23 rd & 24 th November
Badulla	01 st & 02 nd December
Nuwaraeliya	25 th August, 20 th & 21 st December

Basic & Advance Training



Campaigns

District	Date	Covered Places
Gampaha	28 th July	Gampaha, Negombo, Minuwangoda, Udugampola, Ja-ela
Monaragala	03 rd August	Wellawaya, Pelwatta, Burutha Junction, Mahagodayaya, Tanamalwila
Badulla	05 th August	Bandarawela, Haputale, Boralanda, Guruthalawa, Welimada, Etampitiya
Mannar	07 th August	Mannar, Pesalai, Adampan, Andakulam
Jaffna	09 th August	Jaffna, Chunnakam, Manipay, Tellipalai, Maruthanarmadam
Trincomalee	12 th August	Trincomalee, Kinniya, Kantale, Thambalagamuwa
Galle	19 th August	Galle, Baddegama, Habaraduwa, Milidduwa, Katugoda
Nuwaraeliya	26 th August	Hatton, Dickoya, Kotagala, Pathana
Hambanthota	02 nd September	Hambanthota, Tangalle, Sooriyawewa, Barawakumbuka, Hungama, Ranna, Angunakolapelassa
Matara	09 th September	Deniyaya, Urubokka, Kotapola, Morawaka, Beralapanathara
Batticaloa	11 th September	Batticaloa, Eravur, Kattankudy











6.4. Court Delay Campaign

The Right to Life Human Rights Centre had organized a campaign and signing of petition regarding the "Court Delays" on behalf of Sri Lankan Civil Society Collective. The campaign was held on 25th of June 2018 in front of High Court, Hultsdorp in Fort. A group of people representing Civil Society Organization participated in the program, distributing leaflets, singing up the petition and engaging with the public in a bid to give an active contribution to the program.





6.5. Press Conference

The Right to Life Human Rights Centre had organized a press conference on Torture cases delay and in general court delay on 20th June 2018 at Nippon Hotel. Human Rights Lawyers, Activists, Civil Society leaders were present at the Press conference as representing Civil Society Collective against Torture in Sri Lanka. Media organizations in the country have given full coverage of the press in their respective medias. Statistics of the cases have been put forward in the media and it is said that there are more than 100 thousand.





07 EVENTS/ FORUMS

7.1. 15th Anniversary of Right to Life Human Rights Centre

On 17th February 2018, Right to Life Human Rights Centre celebrated the 15th Anniversary of the Organization. The Organization was founded in November 2002. The event is organised at Olympic House Auditorium and there are 130 participants took part at the Anniversary.

Members of the Director Board of Right to Life Human Rights Centre were present; Mr. Brito Fernando, Mr. Jayanthilaka Bandara were present and representing founder members Mrs. Ranjani Gamage was present, along with it former staff of the organization, representatives of Civil Society Organizations, District Leaders, Human Rights Defenders, Victims of Human Rights violations and well-wishers.

Mr. Sudarshana Gunawardane AAL, Director General of Government Information Department, was the guest speaker at the event and addressed the gathering on "How better civil society can make use of media to publicize its activities". Two books were launched at the event. "Veemansa" a booklet written by Mr. Philip Dissanayake, Executive Director of Right to Life Human Rights Centre, about the 15 years of the organization. And the next booklet was namely "CAT Ahasin Maha Polowata" (CAT from Sky to Earth), Mr. Pubudu Randima LLB, Legal Coordinator of Right to Life Human Rights Centre has written it. Mr. Philip Dissanayake, Executive Director of the organization expressed his views of the organization highlighting the main events from the beginning of the organization till now. Mr. Upul Kumarapperuma AAL, Mr. Suresh Nadesan, Mrs. Chamila Thushari and Mr. Ayub Khan expressed their views about the organization.





7.2. International Day in Support of Torture Survivors

On 28th June 2018, Panel Discussion was held at Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm with the representatives of State, Independent Institutions and Civil Society at the Panel. Apart from that a Former Assistant Superintend of Police and President of Lanka Salt Limited and Human Rights Lawyer were at the panel representing general public. Mr. R. H. M. Keerthranthne was facilitated at the Panel Discussion for his strive over the last 7 years holding his torture case and demanding for justice and winning it on 23rd June 2018 with 575,000 LKR Compensation according to the judgment given by the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka. Civil Society representatives and Human Rights Defenders from various Districts have taken part at the event. Apart from it representatives of Colombo based organizations and Embassies were also present at the event.





7.3. 70th International Human Rights Day Commemoration – Intellectual Discourse

Intellectual Discourse on the theme of "The Challenges We have today to Secure Human Rights" was initiated by Civil Society Collective and Trade Unions. The event was organized Right to Life Human Rights Centre to mark the 70th International Human Rights Day on December 10, at Bandaranayakia Memorial International Conference Hall Colombo 09. Mr. Philip Dissanayake, the Executive Director of Right to Life Human Rights Centre and Co-convener of Platform for Freedom and Veediye Wirodaya initiated the Intellectual Discourse with the explanation of the objectives. Hon. M.A. Sumanthiran, Member of Parliament representing Tamil National Alliance and Human Rights Lawyer, Dr. Nimalka Ferando, Lawyer and Civil Society Activist, Mr. J.C. Weliamuna, Human Rights Lawyer and convener of Platform for Freedom, Mr. Saman Ratnapriya, President of Trade Unions' Front expressed their views on the theme.

Mr. Prabodha Ratnayake AAL, Mr. Suresh Nadesan representing Upcountry Community, Mr. Suranga Rupasinghe representing Eastern Province, Ms. Thamara Dayani Hettimulla representing National Trade Unions shared their views on the theme. As a core everyone highlighted that the constitutional coup and the present political instability is a threat to the human rights protection and promotion. Human Rights Defenders and Activists representing all parts of Sri Lanka and representatives of Human Rights Organizations and Civil Society have taken part at the Commemoration.







8.1. Cases we have won

R.H.M. Keerthirathne - Anamaduwa Case

Petitioner was arrested due to mistaken identity by police officers attached to Anamaduwa Police Station. Therefore, the petitioner filed a Fundamental Rights case in the Supreme Court under R2L legal assistance. The case number is SCFR491/2011. On 25th of June 2018, Supreme Court delivered the judgement in favour of the petitioner. Supreme Court Ordered to the 1st and 2nd Respondents to pay Rs.25,000 and Rs.50,000 to the petitioner and ordered to the Police Department to pay Rs.500,000 to the petitioner.



David Amarasinghe - Pugoda Case

In 2010 David Amarasinghe was dead in police custody. Two suspect police officers attached to Kirindiwela Police Station filed a "Mandamus" Writ case against to Pugoda Magistrate Court to avert murder case. Then Court of Appeal imposed an interim order to avert above murder case. After Right to Life Human Rights Centre gave legal assistance to the victim. So under this legal assistance Court of Appeal has cancelled the above interim order on 22nd of October 2018.



8.2. Number of Court Cases in 2018

Court	Number of Cases
Supreme Court	19
Court of Appeal	06
High Court	11
District Court	06
Magistrate Court	19
Total	61



8.3. Meeting Independent and State Institutions

Right to Life Human Rights Centre hold several meetings with Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, National Police Commission and the Office of the Missing Persons and discussed about the ongoing human rights situation in the country and further discussed how better the Civil Society and the Independent Commissions can work together on human rights issues to promote and protect human rights in Sri Lanka. The meetings were successful and fruitful. There were better outcomes we were able to see in the latter part of 2018 with the independence of the Commissions and the state Institutions.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs as usual with their human rights division we had discussions on torture issues and the follow up of the Five Years' Human Rights Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights. Right to Life Human Rights Centre is also a member in designing the five years' plan. Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Law and Order were unable to be meet, though we have tried in many ways to get in touch.



09 HUMAN RIGHTS FIRST AID CENTRE – HRFAC

09.1. Human Rights First Aid Centre - Concept

A Human Rights First Aid Centre is widespread in 11 districts in 2018 earlier Right to Life Human Rights Centre has been functioning 6 Human Rights First Aid Centres in the beginning of 2018 (Gampaha, Galle, Matara, Hambantota, Badulla and Monaragala). In 2018 with the aid of European Union and National Peace Council, Right to Life Human Rights Centre was able to expand the Human Rights First Aid Centres in another 5 Districts (Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Nuwara Eliya, Jaffna and Mannar).

Human Rights First Aid Centre is being operated within Community Based Organization or at a Society in a Village with the participation of a minimum of three members who give their time voluntarily. The Human Rights First Aid Centre is established within an existing Community Based Organization or Society to minimize running costs and avoid additional a burden on society. Right to Life Human Rights Centre identify Human Rights Defenders from the districts and with their consent include them in the volunteer pool. Thereafter the volunteers are given training on how to manage a Human Rights First Aid Centres in a particular District. Human Rights Defender contributes voluntarily a minimum of 3 to 4 days to the Centre per month.

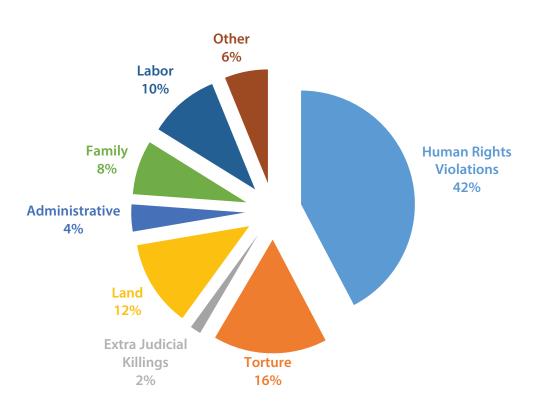
Their functions are as follows:

- The Human Rights First Aid Centre intervenes to support an individual victim or group when a rights violation is evident.
- They identify the issues faced by the aggrieved party, collect relevant information and explore all possible answers.
- Keep the victim updated on possible solutions and ensure the safety of victims.
- With the victims' consent, prepare initial documentation necessary to start a legal process. This includes recording statements, taking copies of police statements, preparing affidavits etc.
- A Human Rights Defender at the Human Rights First Aid Centre accompany the victim to investigations etc. conducted by relevant authorities and observe the conduct of the authorities.
- Directing victims to seek legal / psycho social / medical support from either government led or NGO supported institutions. This is necessary to ensure continuity of legal measures.
- Carry out training / information dissemination for human rights defenders on how to manage a Human Rights First Aid Centre and to build a cadre of localized human rights defenders in a network.
- Carry out human rights / legal rights education workshops to disseminate knowledge to communities in easy to understand local languages.
- Identify, document all localized human rights violations, and disseminate this information to the public, share information on violations with others through available media, through publications, videos and media statements.
- Inform and update relevant governmental and non-governmental human rights institutions on these violations and support with any follow up actions.



09.2. Number of HRFAC Cases in 2018

District	Number of recorded cases
Gampaha	71
Galle	101
Matara	52
Hambanthota	75
Badulla	81
Monaragala	59
Trincomalee (from August)	21
Nuwaraeliya (from September)	33
Total	493



CASES





10.1. Media intervention

Media coverage to all programs, discussions, meetings, and activities conducted by Right to Life Human Rights Centre is covered through the media section in two websites (www.aithiya.lk & www.right2lifelanka.org) two facebook pages (Right to Life Sri Lanka, Aithya), Youtube Channel (Aithiya Meida).

Specially "Aithiya" website has been updated and has reached more in 2018. On October 26, 2018 the site became very active due to the unconstitutional activities happened in Sri Lanka. Interviews, news discussions, videos and letters made the public aware and that became the possibility of coming forward than other alternative websites.

10.2. Articles

We made short video clips, as well as lengthy articles through the Interviews that we had received. Our 11 articles were published in the Anidda Newspaper. Altogether 20 articles including above mentioned articles that we have prepared and that we have extracted was aired through our website. It was included issues relating to human rights and other democracy.

10.3. Aithiya Website

By the end of the last year we were able to raise the site to the highest level in the web media of Sri Lanka. By the first week of December, our website was ranked as 10,642 from all other websites. The responses received to the website were also high. Within a year, a large number of news, articles and interviews have been added to the site in Sinhala and English languages. News is included in the website in Sinhala and English. A short note is included in the updated video. Some important interviews are turned into articles. We create web posters for awareness. In recent times, the popular websites are quoting and taking our news and articles and publishing it in their websites.

10.4. Right to Life Website

This is gradually changing. We report the human rights violations that we receive to the center and that we hear from outside. Especially the Human Rights cases conducted by the R2L Human Rights Center and their current status. During the past few months, the starting information and its functioning information on 11 human rights support centers, coordinated by the National Peace Council and contributions from the European Union has been included to the website. 61 information in English, 100 information in Sinhala, 3 statements and 2 special articles were also recorded in this website. It has also included 18 videos on the Human Rights subject this year.

10.5. Social Media

The face book is most popular among our covers. It updated and provided information and expert ideas to the masses after the 26th of October. This made it possible to create a large readership network. We were able to communicate live and broadcast media conferences live in close proximity. There are about 7,500 readers with us. There are about 5,000 people dealing with our page.

10.6. You tube

Videos are introduced to establish an opinion to establish democracy in the



country with the prevailing political environment in 2018. We have created and uploaded over 208 videos. Hence, the quantity of readers reached a level above 100,000 for some videos. 10,063 subscribers for the youtube which is produced 409 videos so far.



11 INTERVENTION FOR DEMOCRACY

11.1. Political Network Activities

The networking of Right to Life Human Rights Centre is being broaden in 2018 since we were able to join hands with "National Movement for New Constitution" to address the political and democratic issues of the country as a new coalition. Apart from it we were able to initiate a new democratic movement to fight against the Constitutional coup in the latter part of 2018 on October 26 to win over the democratic rights. Right to Life Human Rigths Centre was able to continue as "Platform for Freedom" & "Veediye Virodaya". We have been contributing for political stability of the country at by fighting against the undemocratic decisions of the executive president by rejecting the legal government and trying to bring form a new government. Through the independence of the Judiciary and rule of law in the country was able to reassure democracy.



11.2. Satyagrahaya

Right to Life Human Rights Centre along with Civil Society Organizations and movements and at the same time joining hands with Trade Union Collectives and Political Parties with similar interest to defeat the Constitutional Coup held on October 26, 2018 initiated a 24 days SATYAGRAHAYA at Town Hall Colombo 07. There were political discussions, stage dramas, musical programmes, religious ceremonies, traditional events and etc. are being staged and the SATYAGRAHAYA was able to win on December 16, 2018 with the Supreme Court Judgement against the illegal appointment of a Prime Minister and a new government.



11.3. Public Meetings

As democratic network we were able to do 13 public meeting throughout the year in many parts of the country. Specially we have been conducting public seminars in Southern Province to create awareness among the people to stand for their democratic rights.

We were able to conduct public seminars in ten places namely; Matara, Anuradhapura, Kandy. Nuwara Eliya, Puttalam, Anamaduwa, Chilaw, Colombo, Ratnapura and Kaluthar.





12 History of Sri Lanka Committee Against Torture (SLCAT)

Right to Life Human Rights Centre initially started to work on torture issue in Sri Lanka from its establishment from 2002. Since the organization losing the lives of two torture victims. The need of networking to combat torture was initiated then on and the network called "People Against Torture" PAT is formed along with seven organizations with the support Asian Human Rights Commission.

Right to Life Human Rights Centre has initiated the Sri Lankan Committee Against Torture (SLCAT) from 2009 ensuring torture prevention mechanisms and establishing torture free Sri Lanka. In 2011, we took the initiative and led in the process to submit a shadow report to the United Nations Committee Against Torture (UNCAT) together with nine organizations. Later the network discussed and decided that the UNCAT recommendations should be implemented and the network or the collective has to take the initiation and work for it. The State party should be observed and the Civil Society should pressurize them to implement the recommendations. Later the network worked on that focus.

And in 2016 the Collective was able to make it more effective by joining hands with twenty organizations and were able to submit the shadow report to UNCAT. Now the network has been expanded up to 27 organizations and have decided to include other CSOs who have similar interest to join hands to raise voice against torture. R2L has been playing the leading role of functioning the network, and implementing proposed activities of the network with the network. Activities like, discussions with Independent Institutions and related ministries take measures to prevent torture and ensure accountability, holding press conferences, campaigns, writing statements, awareness raising programs, R2L finds resources to maintain the network.

> Vision:

Zero Tolerance Torture

> Mission:

Strengthening torture prevention mechanisms and create awareness among general public on torture and extra judicial killings, aiming to ensure justice through legal support, advocacy, campaigns

> Sub-missions:

- Cater Torture issues in Sri Lanka through taking legal remedies
- Awareness raising on the gravity of torture to general public
- Advocacy Campaign Give needed media publicity
- Reporting to UNCAT on Torture issues in Sri Lanka
- Regular Discussions with Ministries and Independent Institutions/Commissions
- Regular Research on torture related issues and incidents
- Working against Prison torture

Main Achievements

- 2011 Shadow report to United Nations Committee Against Torture
- 2016 Shadow report to United Nations Committee Against Torture
- 2011 & 2016 representing Sri Lankan Civil Society in Geneva
- 2016 handing over the shadow report to Minister of Foreign Affairs before send it to UNCAT
- Meeting and holding discussions with the Independent Commissions and State Institutions
- Hosting events throughout the month of June in 2018 marking International Day in Support of Torture Survivors
- "Anti-Torture Week"
- Interviewing public figures and professionals on Torture related issues and bring it to public discourse
- Creating documentaries on torture issue both on advocacy and awareness



13 PUBLICATIONS

"Veemansa" By: Philip Dissanayake

A Publication called "Veemansa" is written by Mr. Philip Dissanayake on to mark 15th Anniversary of the organization on the history of the organization. This struggle, challenges, success and the failures as an organization and as a civic movement is being described in the light of political and democratic angle. The human rights situation in the country is also addressed in the publication.

"CAT Ahasin Maha Polowata" By: Pubudu Rndima LLB

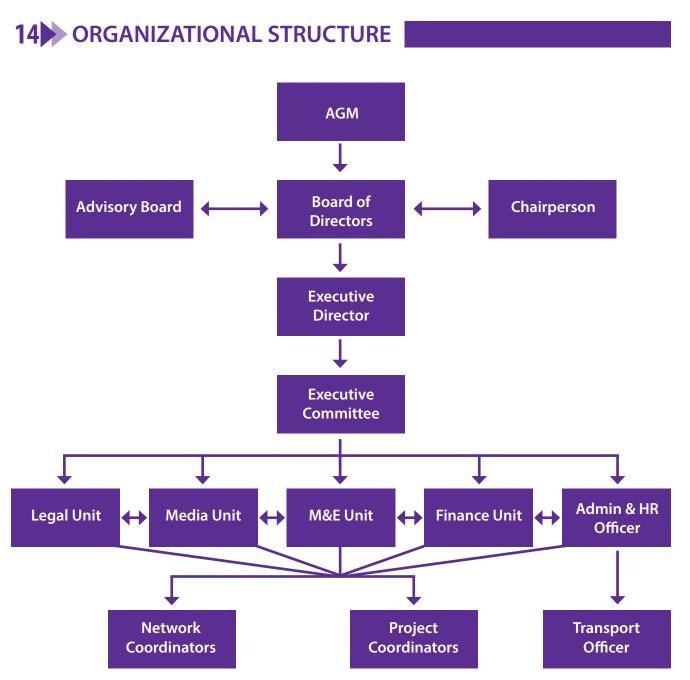
The booklet is being published under the fund of Open Society Foundation project called "Strengthening Civil Society Activism and Monitoring the CAT Recommendations for preventing torture and extra judiciary killings". The booklet is written by Mr. Pubudu Randima LLB, the Legal Coordinator of Right to Life Human Rights Centre on simplifying the recommendations given by the United National Committee Against Torture to Sri Lanka. The booklet is being printed in Tamil and Sinhala both sides of one booklet.

"HRFAC Annual Report 2017" By: R2L Legal Team

A publication was done by R2L on the activities and progress of the Human Rights First Aid Centers. The report consists the information of the functioning of the Human Rights First Aid Centers and the cases that have been received and its progress. The concept of Human Rights First Aid Centers and human rights approach in the districts have been put forward in the report.









Board of Directors _

- 1. Mrs. Chamari Mahanayake AAL (Chairperson)
- 2. Mr. Philip Dissanayake (Executive Director)
- 3. Mr. Brito Fernando (President of Families of the Disappeared)
- 4. Mr. Herman Kumara (Convener of National Fisheries Solidarity)
- 5. Mr. Jayathilaka Bandara (Vetern Artist & Convener of Sadujanarawa)
- 6. Ms. Deanne Uyangoda AAL (Human Rights Lawyer)
- 7. Mr. Nihal Fernado (Accountant & Civil Society Activist)

Executive Committee _

- 1. Mr. Philip Dissanayake (Executive Director)
- 2. Mr. Anthony Vinoth (Administratve Officer & Projects Manager)
- 3. Mrs. Kalpani Perera (Accounts Officer)
- 4. Mr. Pubudu Randima LLB (Legal Officer)

Legal Unit _____

- 1. Mr. Pubudu Randima LLB (Legal Officer)
- 2. Mr. Hiroshan Lakshan Fernando LLB (Legal Coordinator)
- 3. Ms. Rashmika Wijesinghe (Human Rights Database)

Media Unit _____

- 1. Mr. Suranjan Prasad (Media Officer)
- 2. Mr. Sudesh de Silva (Media Assistant)

Monitoring and Evaluation Unit -

- 1. Mr. Philip Dissanayake (Executive Director)
- 2. Mr. Anthony Vinoth (Administrative Officer)

Finance Unit _____

- 1. Mrs. Kalpani Perera (Accounts Officer)
- 2. Ms. Anuththara Dewindi (Accounts Assistant)

Administrative Officer _

1. Mr. Anthony Vinoth (Administrative Officer)

Transport Officer _

1. Mr. Mahesh Fernando

Project Coordinators _

- 1. Mr. Anthony Vinoth (OSF funded Project)
- 2. Mr. Pubudu Randima (EU funded Project)

Network Coordinators ____

- 1. Mr. Philip Dissanayake (Plaform For Freedom Democratic Network)
- 2. Mr. Anthony Vinoth (Sri Lankan Civil Society Collective Against Torture Anti-Torture Network)



FINANCIAL POSITION

#	Date	Donor	Project Title & Total Budget	Total Grant Amount (LKR)	Description of Project
1	2018-2020	European Union	Accountability through Community Engagement and Initiatives for Transition	7,285,417.00 (31,416,515.00)	To capacitate civil society and state actors with the vision and purpose of the new laws and institutions aimed at achieving justice and empower those whose rights have been violated to utilize new and existing mechanisms.
2	2017-2019	Open Society Foundation	Strengthening Civil Society Action to Ensue Zero Tolerance Response to Torture"	10,075,000.00 (19,778,300.00)	Ensuring the full and fair implementation of the zero tolerance policy on torture. Strengthening Civil Society responses on torture including Male Sexual Violence (MSV), in Sri Lanka.
3	2018	District Inter Religious Committee	Collective Engagement for religious freedom	989,646.00	Collaborative local engagement strengthens commitment to pluralism and rule of Law to create necessary environment for the practise of religious beliefs.







RIGHT TO LIFE HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE

Right to Life Human Rights Centre located at Katunayake, is one of the Non-Governmental Organizations aiming to promote and strengthen fundamental Human Rights of the people in Sri Lanka as well as support victims of various harassment by Government institutes by providing legal and financial assistance to seek social justice. The organization started in 2003. The organization initially started its interventions by organizing training and awareness programs for the employees working in the Katunayake Zone with the intention of educating them on labour laws and regulations, and about the potential situation of Human Rights violations and encouraging them to take necessary actions within the legal framework of the country. In 2007, we were able to register the organization as "Right to Life" Human Rights Centre.

At the beginning, the organization confined its operations to the Katunayake Zone and its suburbs with specific objectives. Later on, in addition to the labour rights initiatives, it had to expand the scope of its work due to various kinds of Human Rights violations that occurred in the country and reported to the organization. The organization therefore intervened in matters such as police torture, disappearances, health negligence and other Fundamental Rights violations on behalf of the victims and their families or relatives. According to the analysis carried out by the organization it was revealed that Human Rights violations and negligence takes place primarily due to the lack of awareness of laws, regulations and the legal system of the country. Accordingly, the Right to Life focused more attention on Human Rights training programs, seminars and workshops for vulnerable communities in the country to safeguard them from future victimization. Right to Life then started to focus on building up Human Rights Defenders in grass-root level.

In the meantime Right to Life Human Right Centre took the initiative to form the network of the civil societies in 2009 called "Platform for Freedom" and in 2014 "Veediye Virodaya" to address the risen problem on politics in Sri Lanka. "Platform for Freedom" mainly focused on the themes of Right to speech and Right to life. "Veediye Virodaya" mainly focused on the reform in the country's constitution. In 2011 & 2016 Right to Life took the initiative to prepare an alternative Joint UNCAT report combined of 11 civil society organizations & 20 civil society organizations respectively on torture, extra judiciary killings and disappearance. Right to Life organization presently works in ten districts, Hambanthota, Matara, Puttalam, Kurunegala, Galle, Anuradhapura, Mannar, Vavuniya, Badulla, Monaragale, Colombo and Gampaha in collaboration with Human Rights Defendant Groups (HRDG), civil society and other Non-Governmental Organizations that have similar interests of working on behalf of vulnerable and marginalized groups in rural areas.