



ANNUAL REPORT - 2020  
**RIGHT TO LIFE HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE**



# CONTENT

Message from executive Director	4
Right to Life Human Rights Centre	5
Vision & Mission	6
Organization Structure	7
Our working area	9
Working Context	10
Legal	11
Media	19
Human Rights First Aid Centre	20
Innervation for Democracy	21
Programs	22
Events/Forums	23
Sri Lankan Committee Against Torture	24
Publication	
Financial Position	



## Message from Executive Director

Due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 epidemic in 2020, not only Sri Lanka but the entire world had to face a terrible situation in recent times. However, due to the fact that Sri Lanka controlled the first and second epidemics of the Covid-19 epidemic to some extent compared to other countries, the spread of the disease in the country was considerably curtailed.

Sri Lanka, which was already facing many major economic problems, had to face a number of other crises due to this epidemic. Another serious problem we faced was the complete blockade of all the major sources of foreign exchange supply to us due to this epidemic.

Also, due to certain reforms introduced by the new government and the 20th Amendment to the Constitution, the democratic space that we have been enjoying to some extent has been severely curtailed, and the independent commissioning mechanisms that have been built into it will be sufficient.

There was some voice on social media against these actions, and the government intervened swiftly to control it. An operation was launched targeting those who misused social media, and steps were taken to crack down on those who expressed their views freely. An operation was launched targeting those who misused social media, and steps were taken to crack down on those who expressed their views freely.

To this end, Sri Lanka has adopted the ICCPR Act established by the United Nations to protect the civil and political

rights of the people. At the same time, plans were being drawn up to slow down the activities of NGOs this year, and special ordinances were being planned to curb such activities. At the same time, the NGO Secretariat raided several targeted organizations, investigated their activities and made serious criticisms and baseless allegations against some organizations. We also saw security forces informally and informally seeking information, breaking in and acting in an intimidating manner. However, by the end of the year, the situation was somewhat limited as the Covid-19 situation spread again in the country.

This situation also had some effect on our activism. Although they did not come directly to our office, they visited five of the 14 Human Rights First Aid Centres we have established and inquired about their activities and information about us. He had visited the media several times in some areas. Due to this situation and the Covid-19 epidemic, a considerable number of our planned activities had to be abandoned or postponed. Many participatory activities, including local meetings, protests, and conferences, had to be abandoned.

However, a significant portion of this work could be done using new technology. We were able to take this technology, which was limited to a limited number of people, to the village, and our local human rights defenders were able to quickly practice the technology and actively engage them in these discussions.

In addition, by 2020 we will be able to significantly improve our online technology. In order to make our flagship website [www.aithiya.lk](http://www.aithiya.lk) a popular website and to bring our recently launched website [www.dailyreporter.lk](http://www.dailyreporter.lk) down to the 1000 level according to Alexia Rank, the organization was constantly facing various technical issues. In 2020, we were able to redesign and upgrade the website [www.right2lifelanka.org](http://www.right2lifelanka.org) and to launch the [www.slcat.org](http://www.slcat.org) website in solidarity against torture.

In addition to the 8 Human Rights First Aid centres we had established in 2020, we were able to open six more centres in the Ratnapura, Kurunegala, Puttama, Anuradhapura and Matara districts.

Journalists were able to move the organization forward more creatively for the rights built up for media rights, and through it to create significant activism. At the same time, in 2020, we were able to take the initial steps needed to build a community of lawyers and victims who had a major shortcoming.

**Philip Dissanayake**  
Executive Director  
Right to Life Human Rights Centre

# About Us

Right to Life Human Rights Centre established on 2002 at Kurana, Katunayake, Gampaha District, Western Province. Currently located Jayawadhana Place, Baseline Rd, Colombo 09, Western Province. Vision of the organization is "A multi ethnic and multi religious society of citizens that protect justice, equality, respect for life". Mission of the organization is "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".

The main two objectives of the organization are First Human Rights - Torture, Extra judicial Killings and Enforced Disappearances. Second Democracy - Constitutional Reforms, Rule of Law. The main activities follow as; 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 Centres).

Apart from it the organization is involved in network activities which is the strength of the organization. Sri Lankan Collective Against Torture (SLCAT) with 30 other member organizations in the

field of human rights in Sri Lanka, Human Rights First Aid Centres – There were 12 HRFACs in 12 Districts, People Against Torture (PAT), Platform for Freedom (PFF), Change with Reforms (Veediye Virodaya – Street Protest), National Movement for New Constitution (NMNC), Civil Society Collective for Democracy, Civil Society and Trade Unions Collective (CSTUC). International Relations: Full-fledged member Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum Asia), South Asian Collective for Strategy Litigation, Asian Alliance Against Torture (AAAT), Freedom from Torture (FFT).

The organization is registered as a Guarantee Limited Company under the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007, on 16 June 2009 Certificate of incorporation GA (323). And the Aithiya Website registered Number 2019/34 at Ministry of Mass Media.

The organization also would like to be capacitate on reporting, project monitoring and evaluation to enhance the acquired knowledge the methods already the organization has within and to develop it. At the same time if possible, to get some training for the project staff to upgrade and to enhance their knowledge through following a related course or study program related to the project content. Mainly on democracy, human rights, new laws and acts, project management related programs and use of media and digital security.

Success Stories: Human Right First Aid Centers (In 13 Districts), 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).

## 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), Journalists for Rights Collective

## International Relations

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

## Success Stories

- Human Right First Aid Centres
- Creating Human Rights Defender Groups
- Conducting Education sessions on Human Rights
- Initiating Journalists Collective
- 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)

# Our Vision

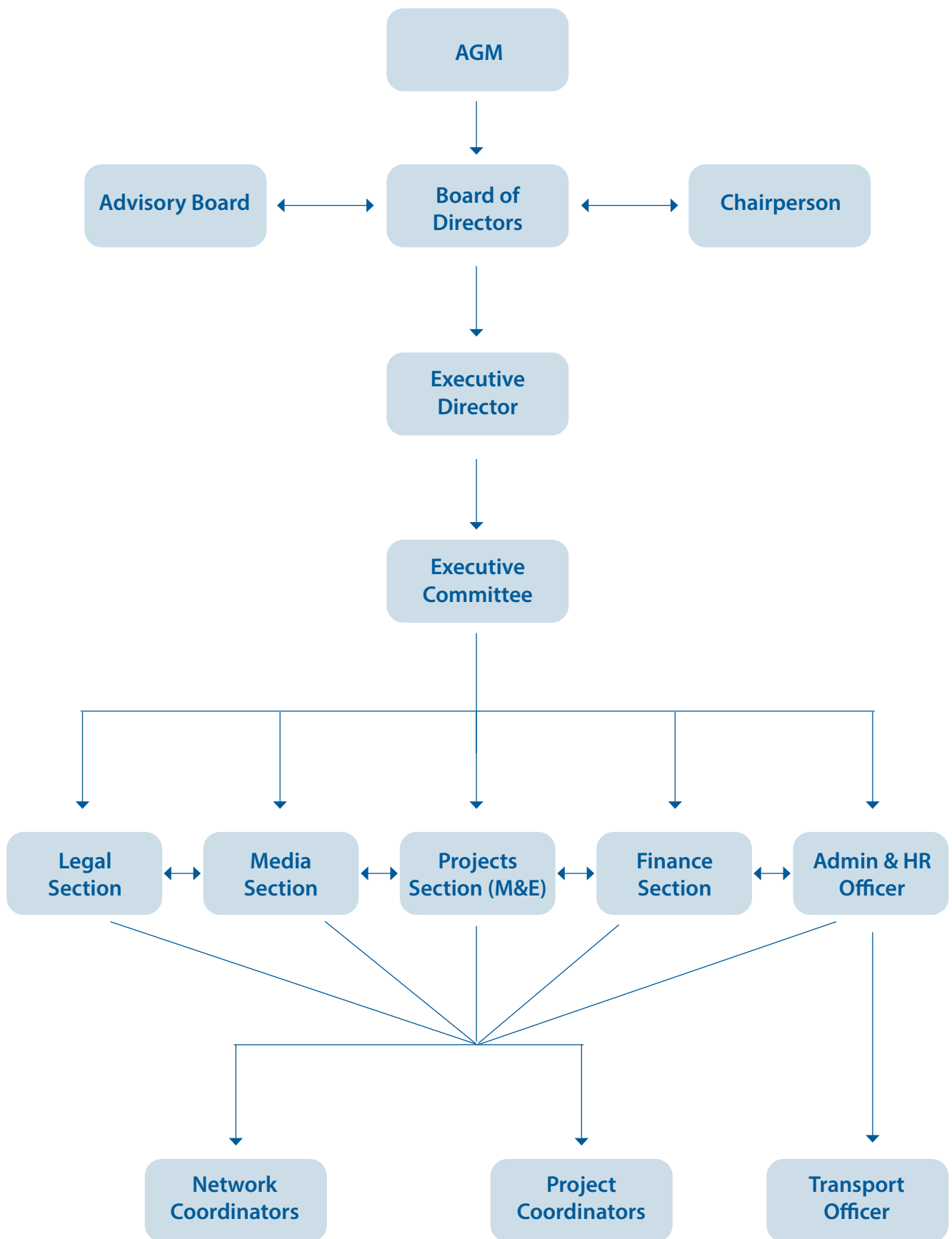
A multi ethnic and multi religious society of citizens of citizens that protect justice, equality, respect for life.

# Mission

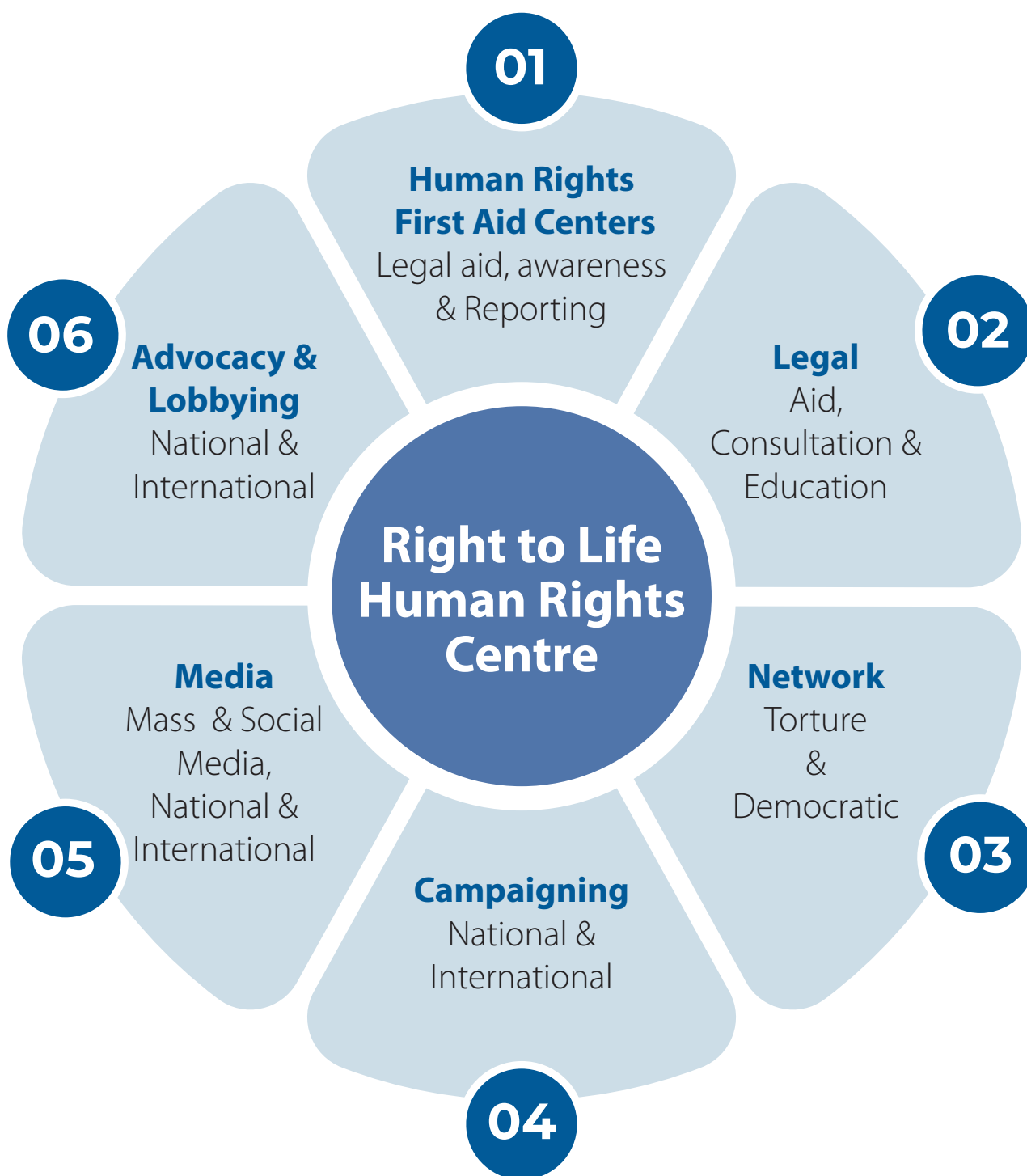
To be placed as an active Centre for establishing a society against human rights violations including torture, extra judicial killings, standing for national harmony and democratic reforms.



# Organization Structure

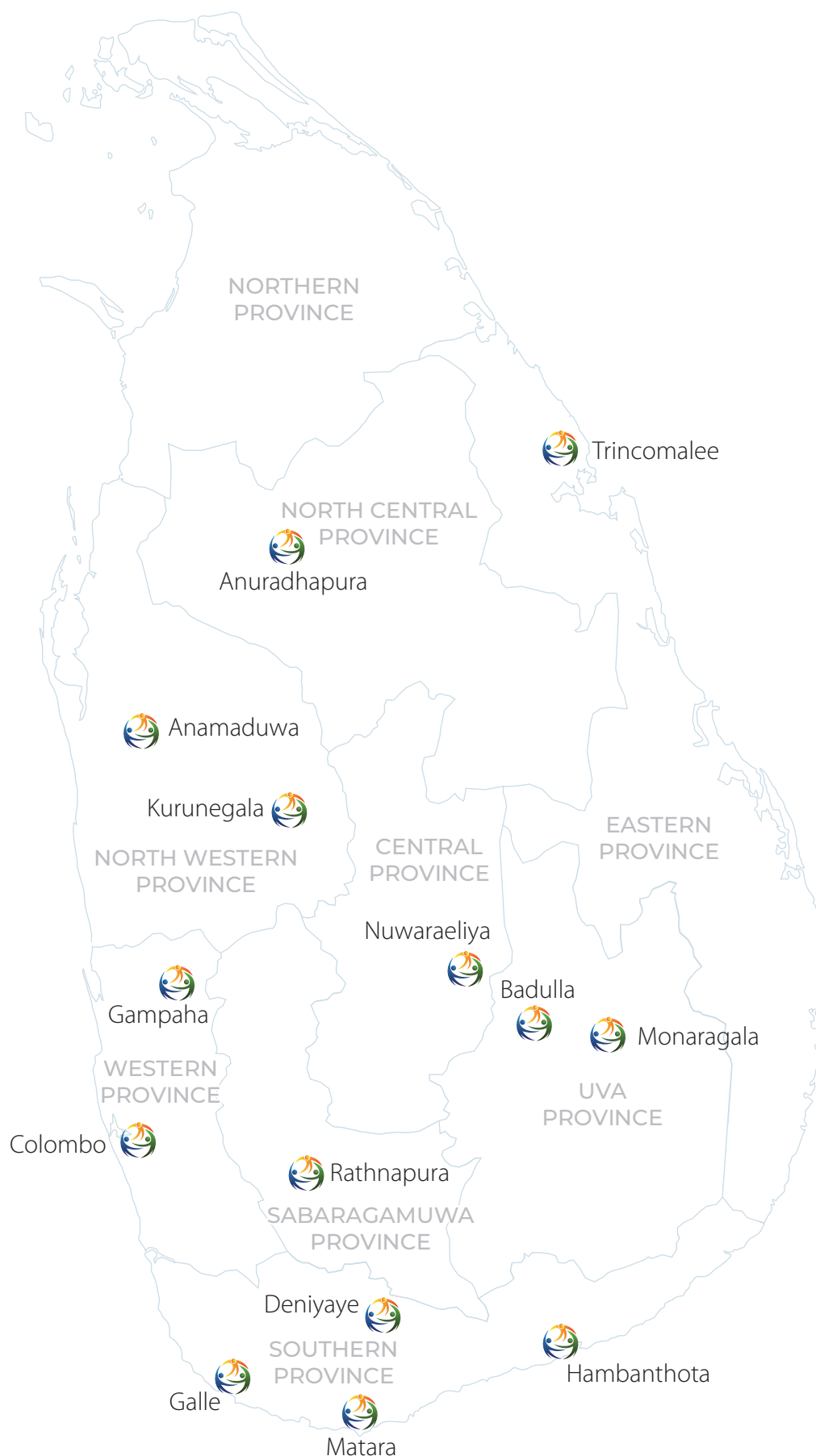


# Our thematic areas of works





# Our Geographical working Areas



# Working Context

Sri Lanka has been facing a huge political change with the effect of 20th amendment which increased the power of the president and ensured a kind of para-military governance. It caused the government to act as they wanted with the covid-19 pandemic. The increase in the spread of covid-19 caused a huge impact with the quarantine law being effective, which compelled the general public to remain at their places.

During this period Sri Lanka was in a major economic crisis and covid-19 pandemic crisis. In addition to these facts, because of quarantine law the functioning of organizations had been restricted. The health measures have not been fulfilled among estate communities since the communities have been running out of money to cover their daily expenses as well.

Sri Lanka, in a unique position with regard to governance compared to the other countries at present. Out of the three main components of governance (the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary) only the executive branch functions properly in Sri Lanka at present. Accordingly, the decisions of the Executive are implemented without any questioning or without any check and balance. Sri Lanka has been confronted with a number of serious human rights violations that can occur when a country is governed only by the executive branch. Violation of Freedom of Speech and Expression is prominent among those violations.

During the COVID Period Sri Lanka was in three crises, Covid-19 Pandemic crisis, Economic Crisis and Constitutional Crisis. In addition to these facts, Because of the Social Distancing fact and imposed

curfew, the network of Human Rights Defenders across the island is collapsed. Since the grassroot human rights defenders have lower level knowledge on digital communication and they lack digital and technical facilities. In this crucial period strengthening the network of Human Rights Defenders is a vital factor for protecting Human Rights island wide.

# Legal

## Cases decided in favour of Victims

### 1. Wattala police torture case

#### *Personal details of the victim*

The victim name is Jerad Mervin Perera, 42years old from Wattala, gampaha district of the island. He was married person and worked in the Colombo dockyard.

#### *Incident*

On the 14th June of 2002 Jerad Mervin Perera was arrested by Police officers attached to Wattala Police station, accusing for a triple murder. Gerrad was severely tortured by the Police officers. There were bruises and six wounds due to the severe assault by Police officers. His eyes were folded; hands were tied back together and hanged on a wood in the roof, then beaten by iron wooded bars. He was laid down putting his face on the ground and then burnt his skin with matches. Later, information received by the police revealed that he was not the real suspect in the arrest and then they released Gerrad asking forgiveness for their mistake. Later the victim was shot dead by a gunman.

#### *Steps we have taken*

People Against Torture (PAT) network referred the victim to Right to Life Organization. After the victim was shot dead, his wife is keeping contacts with R2L. R2L & Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) filed a Fundamental Right case in the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka. A case filed under the Convention against Torture and other Cruel and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment Act No. 22 of 1994 in the High Court of Negombo (HC 326/2003) and also one of the police officer (Suresh Gunasena) and another person (Ajith Nishantha) indicted for Murder under Penal Code.

#### *Current Situation*

The case was filed in the Negombo High Court. (HC 445/2005) On the 22nd of June, 2015, Negombo High Court gave a judgment about the Murder case. In the judgment ordered death penalty to the two accused persons (Including Police officer). And on 28th of June 2019 Negombo High Court gave a judgment about the torture case (HC 326/2003). In the judgment ordered punished the two accused persons with rigorous imprisonment for ten years and with fine (Rs.50,000).

### 2. Rape case in the Bandaranayake International Airport at Katunayake.

#### *Personal details of the victim*

The victim name is Gunasekara Arachchilage Niluka Krishanthi, 30years old from Kurunegala district of Sri Lanka. She is married and have a child. She had planned to go abroad for job as a housemaid.

#### *Incident*

On the 10th of October, 2005, Gunasekara Arachchilage Niluka Krishanthi, who was a passenger being raped by Airport Security Officer, inside of Bandaranayake International Airport at Katunayake. The victim was reportedly threatened a knife point and forcibly drugged before being raped.

#### *Steps we have taken*

When R2L received the information through the media, R2L staff members visited the victim's house. Complaints were prepared and sent to Human Rights Commission and Inspector General of Police. We explained the victim about her rights and the necessary actions to be taken. And also the Airport Security Officer indicted for grave sexual abuse under Penal Code. The case was filed in the Negombo High Court (HC 162/2009). A compensation case has been filed in Negombo District Court and it is still ongoing. (12242/M)

# Legal Cont.

## *Current Situation*

There were three (03) court appearances during the 2019 and one (01) court appearance during the 2020. On the 10th of August, 2016, Negombo High Court gave a judgment about the sexual abuse case (HC 162/2009). In the judgment ordered punished the accused with rigorous imprisonment for Twenty years (20) and with fine (Rs.20,000) and ordered to pay compensation (Rs.400,000) to the victim. We have to get an order from Negombo District Court about the compensation case and get the aggrieved party compensated.

### **3. Pitabeddara Police Torture Case**

#### *Personal details of the victim*

The victim name is Dodampe Gamage Asantha Aravinda, 25years old from Pitabeddara of Galle district of Sri Lanka who is a businessman & married person.

#### *Incident*

On the 28th of February, 2008, Dodampe Gamage Asantha Aravinda and a friend of him left to Pitabeddara, Southern province, by the victim's motor bike and they were met an accident with a lorry. After, the victim had an argument with the lorry driver and they left the place. Thereafter, the victim's bike was chased by the lorry driver and at one point the lorry driver deliberately collided his lorry with the motor bike. As a result, the victim and his friend fell with the bike and his friend was seriously injured. Then, OIC, Pitabeddara Police station, came to the crime scene with the police officers. After arriving there OIC and Police officers started assaulting the victim and his friend without having any reason. While the victim was being beaten by the OIC and police officers, he pleaded some water from the police officers. At the time the lorry driver brought a cup which contained a liquid and opened the victim's mouth and poured the liquid into the victim's mouth. The victim quickly realized the liquid was acid and he threw up the chemical. At the time the lorry driver threw the remaining chemical in the cup to the victim's face and as a result of that the victim's face and his left eye were burnt. Thereafter, the victim and his friend were taken to Pitabeddara police station and at the police station their hands and legs were tied up and they were assaulted again by the police officers. They had been detained in the police station for two days. On the 01st of March, 2008, they were taken to Morawaka hospital and then they were transferred to Matara hospital. Due to acid attack, the victim's left eye got damaged and later he lost the sight of that eye completely.

#### *Steps we have taken*

The victim's father was told by one of his friend about R2L. That friend came to our office and given the information about the incident. Complaints were prepared and sent to Human Rights Commission, National Police Commission and Inspector General of Police. We explained the victim about his rights and the necessary actions to be taken. A Fundamental Right case has been filed in the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka (SCFR 26/2009).

## *Current Situation*

On the 02nd of August, 2016 the judgment was given by the Supreme Court. Court states that, OIC attached to Pitabeddara Police station had violated the Fundamental Rights of the victim. The Court ordered to State and Inspector General of Police to pay Rs.200, 000 compensation to the victim.

### **4. Kandeketiya Police Torture Case**

#### *Personal details of the victim*

The victim name is Sandun Malinga, 17 years old, school student from Kandeketiya, Badulla district of Sri Lanka.

#### *Incident*

On the 07th of May, 2014, Sandun Malinga and his four other relatives were arrested by the police officers of Kandaketiya police station, for punishable offence of treasure hunting. Police officers were assaulted them. After, on 08th of May 2014, the victim's parents went to the police station. In the police station, the victim complained to his mother that the police officers assaulted him and he has severe chest pain and pleaded his mother to rub his chest. Then the victim's mother realized that her son is in

# Legal Cont.

critical condition and asked reserve officer on duty to admit him to the hospital. The reserve officer informed them that nothing can be done as there are no officers at the Police station. After, they came to police station later in the morning and they found the victim is in a worst condition and crying while lying in the floor and continue to say that his chest is paining. After, police officers took them to Meegahakivula hospital. The victim's brother said that, S.I. Somarathne first went to the DMO's office of the Meegahakivula hospital and had a chat with the doctor for about 30 minutes and then they produced to the DMO and DMO didn't check any of the victim and his relatives and DMO didn't take any seriousness of them. Then, police officers produced the victim and others to Magistrate Court and they were remanded for 14 days. On the 09th of May, 2014, the victim died.

## *Steps we have taken*

One of our activists referred the victim's parents to R2L. Complaints were prepared and sent to Human Rights Commission, National Police Commission and Inspector General of Police. A Fundamental Right case has been filed in the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka. And also the police officers indicted for Murder under Penal Code. The case was filed in the Badulla High Court (HC 01/2015).

## *Current Situation*

Leave was granted for the Fundamental Right Case and it is still ongoing. (SCFR 157/2014) There were two (02) court appearances during the 2020. On the 09th of January, 2017, Badulla High Court gave the judgment about the murder case (HC 01/2015). In the judgment ordered death penalty to the six (06) accused persons.

## **5. Hakmana Police Torture Case**

### *Personal details of the victim*

The victim name is K.A.Hemasiri, 60years old, a resident of Hakmana, Southern province of Sri Lanka. He is a former principal of a government school. He is married & has two children, both of them are doctors.

### *Incident*

On the 19th of December 2009, after attending to some propaganda work of the opposition party meeting on the following day, Hemasiri with his party member had been waiting in Hakmana town, expecting to meet Pradeshiya Saba Council member Mr.Alahengoda. Later on Mr.Jayatissa Palangasinghe too joined them. Officer in charge (OIC) of the Hakmana Police Station came in a Police Jeep with a three police constable, and asked Hemasiri pointing at the posters that he was holding, Hemasiri told him that the posters are related to the opposition meeting to be held on the following day. Then OIC blamed them with abusive words and he ordered to them to get into the police jeep. Then the OIC forced Jayatissa to get into the jeep and he refused it. Then OIC came around, got hold of Jayatissa's shirt collar, pulled him towards the jeep and assaulted him. Then Hemasiri intervened, he too was assaulted. Hemasiri started bleeding from the mouth. Then the OIC drove off with Jayatissa in the jeep. Hemasiri was admitted to the Hospital. His three teeth were extracted.

## *Steps we have taken*

Through an Opposition Parliament Member who informed to R2L, and some of the staff members visited the victim at the hospital. Complaints were prepared and sent to Human Rights Commission, National Police Commission and Inspector General of Police. We explained the victim about his rights and the necessary actions to be taken. A Fundamental Right case has been filed in the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka (SCFR 12/2010). And also the OIC indicted for voluntarily causing grievous hurt under Penal Code. The case was filed in the Matara High Court. (HC 57/2014).

## *Current Situation*

High Court gave a judgment about the voluntarily causing grievous hurt under Penal Code. In the judgment ordered punished the accused with fine (Rs.1,000).

# Legal Cont.

## 6. Wadduwa Police Torture Case

### *Personal details of the victim*

The victim name is Dassanayake Nimal Chandrasiri of Wadduwa, Western Province of Sri Lanka. He was 56 years old, married person & has two children. He was a fisherman.

### *Incident*

The victim was arrested by a team of police officers attached to Wadduwa police station. Police officers were brought the victim to Wadduwa police station. Immediately upon hearing the news, his son went to the police station where he found the victim lying on the floor of a cell. He was bleeding profusely from injuries caused by the severe torture he had endured. Despite repeated requests for water by the victim, the officers on duty refused to comply. However, the police then stated that they arrested the victim on suspicion of possession of two cannabis cigars and later found the victim was dead inside the cell.

### *Steps we have taken*

When R2L received the information through the media, then staff members visited the victim's house. Complaints were prepared and sent to Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, National Police Commission and Inspector General of Police to take necessary steps. A Fundamental Rights case has been filed in the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka (SCFR 260/2012). And also indictments have been filed against the perpetrators in Panadura High Court. (HC/3499/2017). WRIT application has been filed in the Court of Appeal to issuing WRIT of Mandamus to National Police Commission and IGP to conduct a credible inquiry into the complaints made by the victim's Wife. (WRIT 473/2015).

### *Current Situation*

According to the writ application (WRIT 473/2015) National police commission informed to the court that the commission has taken disciplinary actions against to the perpetrators.

## 7. Kirindiwela Police Torture Case

### *Personal details of the victim*

The victim name is David Amarasinghe, 56 years old, resident of Kirindiwela, Gampaha district of Sri Lanka. He was a farmer.

### *Incident*

On 13th August 2010 around 11.55p.m David Amarasinghe was illegally arrested and brutally tortured near the Hanwella road junction of Kirindiwela by the police officers of the Kirindiwela Police Station. Thereafter he sustained injuries and bleeding from his ear. Therefore the police officers took him to the close by Radawana Government Hospital. However he has been died due to the injuries.

### *Steps we have taken*

We received the information through the local media and then one of our activists visited victim's place. Complaints were prepared and sent to Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, National Police Commission and Inspector General of Police to take necessary steps. Murder case has been filed in Pugoda magistrate court but perpetrators has been filed a writ case in the court of appeal against to the above murder case. But court of appeal ordered to allow to hearing of the Pugoda Magistrate court case. Then perpetrators filed appeal case against the judgement of court of appeal in the Supreme Court. R2L Legal Section giving necessary Legal Aid to this Supreme Court case.

### *Current Situation*

Court of appeal ordered to allow to hearing of the Pugoda Magistrate court case. Then perpetrators filed appeal case against the judgement of court of appeal in the Supreme Court. R2L Legal Section giving necessary Legal Aid to this Supreme Court case.

## 8. Torture case in Katunayake Free Trade Zone

### *Personal details of the victims*

There were 13 victims faced this torture incident and one person was died. R2L has given legal support for 03 victims of them. They are Sameera Sandaruwan, Jayathilaka & Pradeep kumara. They were working as labours in the Katunayake Free Trade Zone when they faced this incident.

### *Incident*

The workers' uprising in the Katunayake Free Trade Zone, which began on May 24, 2011 against the private sector pension bill brought into effect under the government of Mahinda Rajapakse, has taken on a brutal and brutal character due to the misbehavior of the police. The police fired on the same day, killing 4 people in the trade zone and 5 people, including two three-wheeler drivers, and injuring nearly 100 persons. Roshen Chanaka, who was later admitted to the Free Trade Zone in the Ragama Hospital, succumbed to injuries after being shot by the police and died on the night of 1st June 2011.

### *Steps we have taken*

Some staff members of Right to Life also went to the place. Complaints were prepared and sent to Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, National Police Commission and Inspector General of Police to take necessary steps. Make aware the victims' families about Human Rights through our awareness programs. Fundamental Rights cases (SC FR 346/11, SC FR 347/11, SC FR 348/11) have been filed in the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka.

### *Current Situation*

On 5th April 2019 Supreme Court decided that the attack on the employees of the Katunayake Free Trade Zone by the police was a violation of fundamental rights. The Supreme Court ordered to the respondents that compensation must be paid for the petitioners.

## 9. Illegally arrest by the Anamaduwa Police officers.

### *Personal details of the victim*

The victim name is R.H.M. Keerthirathna, 50 years old, resident in Mudalakkuliya, Puttalam district of Sri Lanka.

### *Incident*

On January 18, 2011, Anamaduwa police officers visited the victim's home and arrested him. The reason for his arrest is not known. He was taken to the police station and produced before the Magistrate's Court on January 19, 2011, on false charges, and remanded.

### *Steps we have taken*

One of our activists referred the victim's family members to R2L. Complaints were prepared and sent to Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, National Police Commission and Inspector General of Police to take necessary steps. Make aware the victim's family about Human Rights through our awareness programs. A Fundamental Rights case (SC FR 491/11) has been filed in the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka.

### *Current Situation*

On 25th June 2018, Supreme Court decided that arrest the victim without any reason by the police officers was a violation of fundamental rights. Supreme court ordered to the 1st Respondent (Police constable who came to arrest the victim) to pay Rs 25000/= , 2nd Respondent ( Officer in charge of the police station) to pay Rs 50,000/= and state to pay Rs 500,000/= to the victim.

## Cases followed towards 2020

### Supreme Court Cases

No.	Name of the victim	Category	Case Number	Appeared Lawyers	Remarks
1	Mr. Seninur Miswer- Periyamulla	Torture & Murder	FR/342/2008	Mr. Upul Kumarapperuma	Laid By
2	Mr. Asantha Aravinda- Galle	Torture	FR/29/2008	Mr. Upul Kumarapperuma	Won
3	Mr. Amitha Ariyaratna- Ragama	Torture	FR/123/2009	Mr. J.C Weliamuna	Dismissed
4	Mr. K.A.Hemasiri –Hakmana	Torture	FR/12/2010	Mr. Upul Kumarapperuma	Ongoing
5	Mr. Sameera Sadaruwan (FTZ)	Torture	FR/346/2011	Mr. J.C Weliamuna	Won
6	Mr. R.H.M Keerthirathne	Torture	FR/491/2011	Mr. Upul Kumarapperuma	Won
7	Mr. Pradeep Kumara (FTZ)	Torture	FR/348/2011	Mr. J.C Weliamuna	Won
8	Mr. Jayathilaka (FTZ)	Torture	FR/347/2011	Mr. J.C Weliamuna	Won
9	Mr. Sameera Sandaruwan (FTZ)	Torture	FR/346/2011	Mr. J.C Weliamuna	Won
10	Mr. Susil Priyanka	Torture	FR/690/2012	Ms. Ermisa Tegal	Dismissed
11	Mr. Thusitha Rathnayaka	Torture	FR/521/2012	Ms. Ermisa Tegal	Dismissed
12	Mr. Nimal Chandrasiri	Torture & Murder	FR/260/2012	Mr. J.C Weliamuna	Ongoing
13	Mr.Jerad Perera	Torture & Murder	SC SPL LA/259/2013	Dr. Jayantha Almeda	Won
14	Mr. Sadun Malinga – Badulla	Torture & Murder	FR/157/2014	Mr. Lakshan Dias	Ongoing
15	Mr. Shantha Lakmal	Murder	FR/28/2015	Mr. Lakshan Dias	Dismissed
16	Mr. L.A. Samantha	Torture	FR/85/2015	Mr. Lakshan Dias	Ongoing
17	Mr. Kelum Subasinghe	Extra Judicial killing	FR/29/2015	Mr. Lakshan Dias	Dismissed
18	Mr. Gamage Wasantha	Torture	FR/34/2016	Mr. Lakshan Dias	Ongoing
19	Mr. Gamage Lasantha	Torture	FR/33/2016	Mr. Lakshan Dias	Ongoing
20	Mr. D.P.Mendis	Torture	FR/32/2016	Mr. Lakshan Dias Mr. Priyalal Sirisena	Ongoing
21	Mr. Sumith Prasanna	Torture & Murder	FR/30/2016	Mr. Lakshan Dias Mr. Priyalal Sirisena	Ongoing
22	Mr. Chadik Shyamen	Torture & Murder	FR/449/2017	Mr. Lakshan Dias	Ongoing
23	Shantha	Torture	FR/76/2019	Mr. Lakshan Dias	Ongoing
24	Madhavi Buddhika	Torture	FR/190/2019	Ms. Ermiza Teegal	Ongoing
25	Taitus	Torture	FR/186/2019	Mr. Lakshan Dias	Ongoing
26	David Amarasinghe	Torture & Murder	SC/SPL/LA 410/18	Ms. Niluka Dissanayake & Mr. Pulasthi	Ongoing
27	Ann Ranaweera	Torture	FR/381/2019	Mr. Lakshan Dias	Ongoing
28	Buddhika Madhushan	Torture	FR/219/20	Mr. Dulan Dassanayaka	Ongoing
29	Tharik Ahamad	Torture		Mr. Sumanthiran	Ongoing
30	Ramzi Razeek	Torture			Ongoing
31	Mr. Suranjith Wickramanayaka	Torture	FR/42/21	Ms. Ermiza Teegal	Ongoing
32	Gayan Pushpakumara	Torture & Murder	FR/76/21	Mr. Dulan Dassanayaka	Ongoing



# Legal Cont.

## Cases followed towards 2020

### Court of Appeal Cases

No.	Name of the victim	Category	Case Number	Appeared Lawyers	Remarks
1	Mr. David Amarasingha	Torture & Murder	CA LA -338/2011	Mr. J.C Weliamuna	Won
2	Ms. Sandun Malinga	Torture & Murder	CA (Writ) 375/2015	Mr.Lakshan Dias	Dismissed
3	Mr. Nimal Chandrasiri	Torture & Murder	CA (Writ) 473/2015	Mr. W. Wickramasekara	Won
4	Mr. Jerad Perera	Torture & Murder	CA 151-152/2015	Ms. Upendra Gunasekara	Won
5	Mr. K.A. Hemasiri	Torture	CA 235/2016	Mr.Lakshan Dias	Ongoing
6	Ms. Niluka Krishanthi	Rape	CA 232/2016	Mr. Lakshan Dias	Ongoing
7	Mr. Sandun Malinga	Torture & Murder	CA 19-24/2017	Mr. A.Z Bary	Ongoing

## Cases followed towards 2020

### High Court Cases

No.	Name of the victim	Category	Case Number	Appeared Lawyers	Remarks
1	Mr. Jerald Mervin Perera	Murder	HC/445/2005	Mr. Bernard Piterson	Won
2	Mr. Jerald Mervin Perera	Torture	HC/326/2004	Ms. Upendra Gun-asekara	Won
3	Mrs. Niluka Krishan-thi	Rape	HC/162/2009	Mr. Dileepa Batagoda	Won
4	Ms. Chamila Dis-sanayaka	Rape & Murder	HC/440/2010	Mr. Sunil Wijesooriya	Settlement
5	Mr. K.A Hemasiri	Torture	HC/57/2014	Mr. Gunawaradana	Won
6	Mr. Sandun Malinga	Torture & Murder	HC/01/2015	Mr. Kashyapa Perera	Won
7	Mr. Nimal Chan-drasiri	Torture & Murder	HC/3499/2017	Mr.Lakshan Dias	Ongoing
8	Mr. Asantha Aravin-da	Torture	HC/164/2016	Mr. Tharanga Pinidiya	Ongoing
9	Chadik Sherman	Torture & Murder	HC/155/2019	Mr.Lakshan Dias	Ongoing
10	Buddhi Ivan Gun-asekara	Torture	HC/1678/14	Mr. Dilan de Silva	Ongoing

## Cases followed towards 2020

### District Court Cases

No.	Name of the victim	Category	Case Number	Court	Appeared Lawyers	Remarks
1	Ms. Niluka Krishanthi	Rape	12242/M	Negombo	Mr. Dileepa Batagoda	Ongoing
2	Mr. Brito Fernando & P. Dissanayake	Stay Order	2835/SP	Negombo	Mr. Sunil Cooray	Won
3	Mr. Asantha Arvinda	Torture	149/M	Matara	Mr. Priyantha Perera	Ongoing
4	Mr. Jeesus Denisias	Harassment	14239/M	Negombo	Ms. Upendra Gun-asekara	Ongoing

# Legal Cont.

## Cases followed towards 2020

### Magistrate Court Cases

No.	Name of the victim	Category	Case Number	Court	Appeared Lawyers	Remarks
1	Mr. Asantha Aravinda	Filing a false case	B/2111	Moravaka	Mr. Upul Samara-singhe	Won
2	Mr. Asantha Aravinda	Filing a false case	B/2113	Moravaka	Mr. Upul Samara-singhe	Won
3	Mr. Asantha Aravinda	Filing a false case	B/33921	Moravaka	Mr. Upul Samara-singhe	Won
4	Mr. Asantha Aravinda	Filing a false case	B/4860	Moravaka	Mr. Upul Samara-singhe	Ongoing
5	Mr. Roshen Shanaka FTZ	Murder	B/1577	Negombo	Mr. Saliya Peiris	Won
6	Mr. David Am-arasingja	Murder	B/577/NS-B/678/10	Pugoda	Mr. Lakshan Dias	Ongoing
7	Mr. Royel Greshan	Filing a false case	B/11829-11825	Minuwangoda	Ms. Upendra Gunasakera	Settlement
8	Mr. Jesus Den-isious	Assault	B/2455/11	Negombo	Mr. Srilachana	Ongoing
9	Vidiye Virodaya	Torture	B/21970/2016	Hambantota	Mr. Lakshan Dias Mr. Senaka Perera	Ongoing
10	Mr. Nimal Chandrasiri	Murder	B/04561/15	Panadura	Mr. Lakshan Dias	Won
11	Mr. Madhushka de Silva	Disappearance	B/2894/14	Anuradapura	Mr. Priyala Sirisena	Ongoing
12	Mr. K.A Hemasiri	Filing a false case	B/66401	Matara	Mr. Sanath Karunanayake	Ongoing
13	Mr. Chadik Shyamen	Murder	B/69402/05	Colombo	Mr. Lakshan Dias	Ongoing
14	Mr. Taitus	Torture	B/89427/ 2019	Minuwangoda	Mr. Dulan Dasanayake	Ongoing
15	Ms. Madhavi Buddhika	Torture	B/706/ 2019	Kurunegala	Mr. Dulan Dasanayake	Ongoing
16	Mr. Rasheen Chinthaka & Manjula Asela	Murder	B/5323/2019	Galle	Mr. Dulan Dasanayake	Ongoing
17	Mr. Kanchana Pradeep	Torture	B/	Kurunegala	Mr. Athila Athauda	Ongoing
18	Mr. Dhanushka Madhuranga	Torture	BR/12/21	Deiyandara	Mr. Indika	Ongoing
19	Mrs. Amitha Pri-yangani	Harassment	B/87162/18	Kalutara		Ongoing

## Legal Clinics - 2020

Legal clinic programs were held in 2020 to provide legal aid for complex complaints in district human rights first aid centres which complaints are difficult to access. The programs were conducted with the full intervention of the Right to Life human rights centre. Accordingly,

Attorneys-at-law of Right to Life Human Rights Centre participated in this legal aid programs.

The program was implemented in the Nuwaraeliya, Galle and Hambantota Districts with the focus of Human Rights

First Aid Centers. Accordingly, the Legal Clinics Programs were implemented in Nuwaraeliya District in June and Galle and Hambantota Districts in July.

# Media

## Media Intervention

Media Intervention is very much important to popularize the things; topics among public. Human Rights also a great field which public should have the knowledge and sense about it. So as a Human Right organization we also use the media to improve the human right, democratic rights sense of the people. Through this media intervention we aimed to make a social discourse among general public about human rights and democratic rights, aware people about their rights and how to demand it, share news about human rights violation happens.

In this organization we have several websites to inform the people about this Human Rights, Torture and democratic rights.

## Websites

### *Right to Life Website*

Right to Life Website is the key website where all these functioning human rights actions and activities are included. It is the first website that our organization has been initiated. It has a long history from 2007. Here we include news, articles and videos about the Human right violation cases which we supported as an organization, court cases; FR cases; torture cases, human rights engagements, the programs and trainings that we held. As well it includes the recent incidents, Human Rights Violations and human rights engagements happening around Sri Lanka.

As of February 2020, the Alexa index stood at 9,636,705. There is also a Facebook page. As of November 2020, Alexa was 8505. It moved to Wordpress around 14 December 2020. Alexa 2521 by 12-23. Nearly 200 news has been polished in the website.

### *Aithiya*

Aithiya is the major; popular website which is authorized by our organization. It was initiated in 2014. It has a sense of torture. Mainly it includes news, articles, interviews, videos which are related to the torture and democracy in Sri Lanka. As well it includes foreign news and business news also.

Other than Aithiya website, it has Aithiya YouTube channel and Aithiya Facebook page. Aithiya YouTube channel has 14.6K followers and this YouTube channel make a bridge to a social discourse among general public about the torture and how it eliminates from the society, democratic rights, human rights and recent topics etc. Time to time it has advanced its appearance choosing different kind of topics.

In 2020, it uploaded 100 video interviews on views professionals of Human Rights Violations. It was popular among public, professionals and scholars etc. As well the articles on that video also published in website. By February 6, 2020, the Aithiya Alexa index had been erased. Because that Aithiya is completely declining. Therefore, a new challenge for the media sector was the responsibility to bring rights to a better place.

Aithiya also began in English on the 13th of February. In May, the rights were redesigned to Wordpress. As of July 2020, ownership was 2957 on the Alexa Index. It was 1096 at the beginning of November and rose to 802 by 11-19, crossing the 1,000 mark. The website is in good condition today.

**Alexa rank**  
**236 for 2020-12-23**

**Facebook follow**  
**20181**

**Facebook like**  
**16023**

### *Daily Reporter*

Daily Reporter is the recent website which was initiated in 2019. It is a common website which publishes all kind of news unless other two websites. It also popular among the public. It includes news related to local, political, sports, foreign, business etc. It has a Facebook page too. It was popular among public within a short period of time. This is currently only available in Sinhala and has a Facebook page.

**As of July 2020, the Alexa index was 2397. As of today (12-23) it has come forward as 744.**

**Facebook follow**  
**740**

**Facebook like**  
**756**

### *Sri Lankan Collective Against Torture*

This is the website of the Sri Lankan Collective Against Torture. Preliminary work is nearing completion. It is set to launch as a full-fledged Website in the near future, with some technical work.

Aithiya and Daily Reporter websites are currently linked with 07 local journalists.

District First Aid Human Rights Coordinators were briefed in November on the organization's media division.

During this year we have reported news covering Covid-19 clan / Muslim issues / 20th Amendment / Migrant workers / Child abuse / Health issues / Prison related issues / Political background / Independence of law etc.

# Human Rights First Aid Centres

## Cases received 2020

### Complaints Received From 01st January 2020 to 31st December 2020

District	Human Rights Cases	Civil Cases
Matara	9%	13%
Gampaha	20%	16%
Galle	33%	10%
Hambantota	16%	5%
Badulla	6%	10%
Monaragala	4%	13%
Trincomalee	2%	10%
Nuwaraeliya	7%	20%

## New Human Rights First Aid Centre's

### 1. Matara

A new Human Rights First Aid Centre was established in the year 2020 in Matara with the participation of 30 volunteers. The coordinator is Mrs. Nilmini Ranasekera. Work is being carried out under the guidance of the old centers located at Deniyaya and Hambantota.

### 2. Rathnapura

Ratnapura District Human Rights First Aid Centre was established in the year 2020 with the intervention of the Community Development Foundation based in Ratnapura. Charles Ravi is the coordinator of the center, which has 30 human rights defenders.

### 3. Kurunegala

Kurunegala District Human Rights First Aid Centre was established in the year 2020 with the intervention of the Devasarana Centre based in Kurunegala. Gnanaweera Dissanayaka is the coordinator of the center, which has 30 human rights defenders.

### 4. Puttalam

Puttalam District Human Rights First Aid Centre was established in the year 2020 with the intervention of the Srilanka PDF based in Anamaduwa. Nimal Abeysinghe is the coordinator of the center, which has 30 human rights defenders.

### 5. Anuradhapura

Anuradhapura District Human Rights First Aid Centre was established in the year 2020 with the intervention of the Anuradhapura Citizen Committee based in Anuradhapura. Nimal Dissanayaka is the coordinator of the center, which has 30 human rights defenders.



# Journalist Collective

At present there are nearly 200 national news websites in Sri Lanka. And nearly 15 television channels, nearly 40 radio channels and 20 print media are currently in operation. But most journalists who work in those media do not engage in human rights-based human rights violations, especially in cases of extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, and police torture.

Due to the limited facilities available to these journalists, information on human rights violations has been obtained only from the police or the courts. It is very low level to go directly to the scene and meet the relevant parties and get information. And the knowledge of these journalists is minimal. We have reported since many journalists have had personal contacts with police and other officials to obtain this information, there are instances where the truth has been reported but they considered harmful to them if they publish such information.



A discussion made on in order what measures can be taken to address this situation has been launched from 2018 with the participation of 25 national level journalists representing various sectors. We have also researched and engaged in various activities with journalists who value, appreciate human rights and protect human rights. After the formation of this unity, the news that they are

sometimes unable to publish in their media, the important news we receive is shared among us and published through the media and several programs were conducted to educate them on these subjects.

# Sri Lankan Collective Against Torture

As in previous years, in 2020, the Sri Lankan Collective Against Torture spoke out against various fundamental rights violations based on torture. However, in the face of the ongoing corona epidemic, some activities had to be curtailed. In the year 2020, a new element was added to the Sri Lankan Collective Against Torture. It is the [www.slcat.org](http://www.slcat.org) website. This is a very important web page for people who are involved in various activities against torture. In particular, it can be used as a source of information, news related to torture incidents in Sri Lanka and valuable court judgments are in there.

In addition, Legal Initiatives for Anuradhapura prison and Mahara prison incidents, Media publicity such as issuing statements, Social media campaigns, Press conferences were carried out throughout the year.



# Events/ Forums

## International Human Rights Day

Online discussion to mark International Human Rights Day

“Government and our responsibility on extrajudicial killings”

Like every year, this year, despite the Covid-19 epidemic, we were able to mark International Human Rights Day on December 10th. This time the event was held as an online forum through Zoom. The theme this time was “Government and our responsibility for extrajudicial killings”. Mr. Basil Fernando, Attorney-at-Law, Dr. Visakesha Chandrasekara, Dr. Nimalka Fernando, Dr. Thush Wickramanayake and Executive Director of Right to Life Philip Dissanayake were the key speakers.

## International day in support of Torture Victims

Over the years, the Right to Life Human Rights Center has teamed up with a large number of people to commemorate the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. But in the year 2020 it was not possible to hold a program with a large number of people under the covid-19 condition. Therefore, a media briefing was held at the Nippon Hotel in Colombo 2020 with the victims and their families who had been subjected to various forms of brutal torture from January 2020 to June 2020.

S. B. Madushan, a police constable who has been suspended due to torture by senior police officers and his mother, Father of a disabled child Tariq Ahmed, Mr. Anthony Vinoth, Executive Director of R2L Mr. Philip Dissanayake and Attorney-at-Law Prabodha Ratnayake spoke on the occasion.

## Right to Information Day

The Right to Life Human Rights Organization held its first International Information Day on September 28, 2020 at the Susiripaya Indoor Auditorium. Journalists for Rights also teamed up with Right to Life to host the event. Minister of Mass Media and Information Keheliya Rambukwella, Former Speaker Karu Jayasuriya, Legal Adviser to the Information Bureau Ashwini Nateson, Additional Secretary to the Ministry of Mass Media and Information H.R. Hewage and Jagath Liyanarachchi. Mr. Suranga Rupasinghe and Mr. Rahul Samantha, eminent persons who used the Freedom of Information Act, shared their experiences. Also, a number of local and national level journalists participated in this event.



# Financial Position

Year	Donor	Project Title	Total Grant Amount (LKR)	Description of Project
2020	EU	Accountability through Community Engagement and Initiatives for Transition	(31,416,515) 11,252,790	Transnational justice and human rights promotion and activating prevailing mechanism for citizen's benefits
2020	OSF	Strengthening Civil Society Action to Ensure Zero Tolerance Response to Torture"	(21,779,037) 10,605,477	Promote Human Rights reforms and rule of law through public education, policy advocacy and capacity building and networking of civil society groups.
2020	IDEA		(13,153,506) 1,950,000	Legal support for torture victims. Further building the capacity of Sri Lankan Collective Against Torture (SLCAT) network Improving Capacity of selected Human Right Defenders and Human Rights first aid centers (HRFAC)
2020	OSF	Demanding justice through the engagement of human rights defenders	(2,749,264) 1,243,788	Advocate for human rights violations during the corona epidemic and provide legal assistance.
2020	UNFVT		3,622,800	Providing legal aid and medical support to the victims of torture.
2020	Freedom House	The goal of this project is protecting HRDs and advancing inclusion in Sri Lanka.	(8,204,625) 2,037,330	Protecting HRD's and advancing inclusions in Sri Lanka
2020	NED	To build up a national and regional level group of journalists who will work on human rights and democratic rights countering prevailing ethnocentrism, racism and religionism and establishing a path for sustainable reconciliation. 2. To continue to creatively and effectively expand the use of social media, which provides knowledge about democratic rights and human rights.	(6,916,000) 4,010,761	Creating active journalists who will stand for democracy and human rights and demanding for justice to ensure stable and human rights friendly society through respecting and accepting the rights of all people without any difference and partiality.
2020	ALRC	Enabling greater national discourses on poverty alleviation through the strengthening of justice systems and orientation of state institutions towards human rights	144,384.80	
2020	The May 18	To Designate May 18 as Universal Day for the Prevention of Militarism and Authoritarianism	232,511	