



# 2021 **ANNUAL REPORT**



**RIGHT TO LIFE**  
HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



RIGHT TO LIFE HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Message from Executive Director .....	5
2	Right to Life Human Rights Centre .....	7
3	Vision & Mission .....	8
4	Organization Structure .....	9
5	Our working areas .....	11
6	Working context .....	12
7	Performance of 2021 .....	13
	7.1 Legal .....	13
	7.2 Projects .....	18
	7.3 Media .....	19
	7.4 Finance .....	21
8	Networks .....	22
	8.1 Sri Lankan Collective against Torture .....	22
	8.2 Lawyers for Human Rights .....	23
	8.3 New Dialog (Aluth Kathabaha) .....	24
9	Events and Forums .....	25
10	Publications .....	26





## 01. MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - 2021

Freedom of expression and association is a fundamental right granted by our Constitution. However, the current government and the previous governments have taken different efforts from time to time to suppress or control or limit this right. As soon as the current government took place, new legislation was introduced to control the activities of civil organizations in Sri Lanka. Arrangements were made to completely block the new registration of civil organizations, and for that the approval of a number of institutions including the Ministry of State Security had to be obtained.

Meanwhile, the security forces had gone to some organizations and made various inquiries. Due to that, some of the actors were scared and their performance was significantly weakened. Also, there was a lot of unrest among the civil organizations due to various activities carried out by the NGO Secretariat beyond its limits. Meanwhile, the security forces had gone to some organizations and made various inquiries. Due to that, some of the actors were scared and their performance was significantly weakened. Also, there was a lot of unrest among the civil organizations due to various activities carried out by the NGO Secretariat beyond its limits.

For this reason, many significant civil organizations came together to face this, and the collection was later formed as a national unity of civil and non-governmental organizations, through which civil organizations were informed and empowered. Our organization contributed to that activity, and in 2021 we made a significant contribution to organize its regional programs.

Many of these civil organizations do not operate in Sri Lanka, understanding of topics including human rights including basic rights of the people, criminal and civil laws, rights of women and children and rights of minority communities, farmers, fisheries and environmental rights and free and fair elections. Performance could have been much lower.

These civic organizations became popular among people because their activists worked with great dedication and enthusiasm in the midst of various challenges. The new knowledge and cultures of the world were brought to people by this civil activism.

Our organization also fundamentally accepts the activities of civil organizations and stands unconditionally against any activity to suppress it. Also, since about a decade ago, we have been building various networks and giving priority to working with various networks.

The network of human rights defenders working in our human rights first aid centers spread across 14 districts who voluntarily intervene against human rights violations in the area, and the Sri Lankan Collective against Torture, which currently has 28 organizations against human rights violations including torture, are facing the Covid epidemic situation. In 2021 we were able to run with some level of success.

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Also, this year, we were able to maintain the networks of lawyers for human rights, which started by connecting the lawyers who are passionate about human rights, and the network of journalists for rights created by involving media workers working in various fields at the regional and national level, through new technology.

However, the Citizens' Forum for Justice, which was established by connecting the victims of various rights violations, could not be successfully maintained in 2021 due to the fact that a significant number of the victims did not have new technical equipment or the knowledge to use it.

Although travel restrictions have been imposed due to the covid pandemic situation, we have been able to further develop and popularize our advertising mechanisms, especially our social media channels this year. We were able to make our main website [www.aithiya.lk](http://www.aithiya.lk) website and [www.dailyreporter.lk](http://www.dailyreporter.lk) website more popular in 2020. Also, in 2021, we were able to improve the quality of the organization's website [www.right2lifelanka.org](http://www.right2lifelanka.org) and the Sri Lankan Collective against Torture website [www.slcat.org](http://www.slcat.org).

Also, due to the continued intervention of our legal department, the fact that we were able to win the fundamental rights violation case filed this year regarding the death of Sadun Malinga, a 17-year-old youth resident of Kandeketiya area, Badulla, can be mentioned as a victory over police torture.

Also, we were able to create a significant discussion about the delay in cases in Sri Lanka this year due to our submission that other trials in the case of Sriyani Silva v. Iddamalgoda, which was a very famous case, have not been completed even after 21 years. In 2021, we were able to release a documentary film called 5th Narakadiya related to this incident, as well as a publication based on the experiences of Mrs. Amita Priyanthi, who has worked for 21 years demanding justice for her brother who was killed in this incident.

The discussion about the economic crisis that came with the covid epidemic was also taken forward as our new approach in the year 2021, and we arranged to hold several discussions in this regard. Also, this year we were able to create a feature film that shows the depth of the danger, and we were able to show the film on a TV channel and hold a very important panel discussion about it this year.

**Philip Dissanayake**  
Executive Director

## 02. RIGHT TO LIFE HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE

Right to Life Human Rights Centre established on 2002 at Kurana, Katunayake, Gampaha District, Western Province. Currently located 56/02 Palitha Place, Colombo 09, Western Province. Vision of the organization is “A multi ethnic and multi religious society of citizens that protect justice, equality and 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 13 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 28 other member organizations in the field of human rights in Sri Lanka, Human Rights First Aid Centres - There were 13 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), Journalists for Rights and Lawyers for Rights. 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).

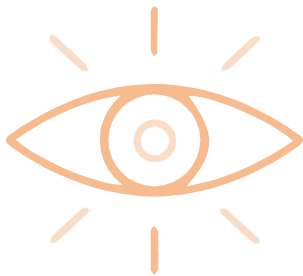
The organization is registered as a Guarantee Limited Company under the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007, on 16 June 2009 Certificate of incorporation GA (323). And the Aithiya Website registered Number 2019/34 at Ministry of Mass Media.

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).



## 03. VISION & MISSION



### VISION

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

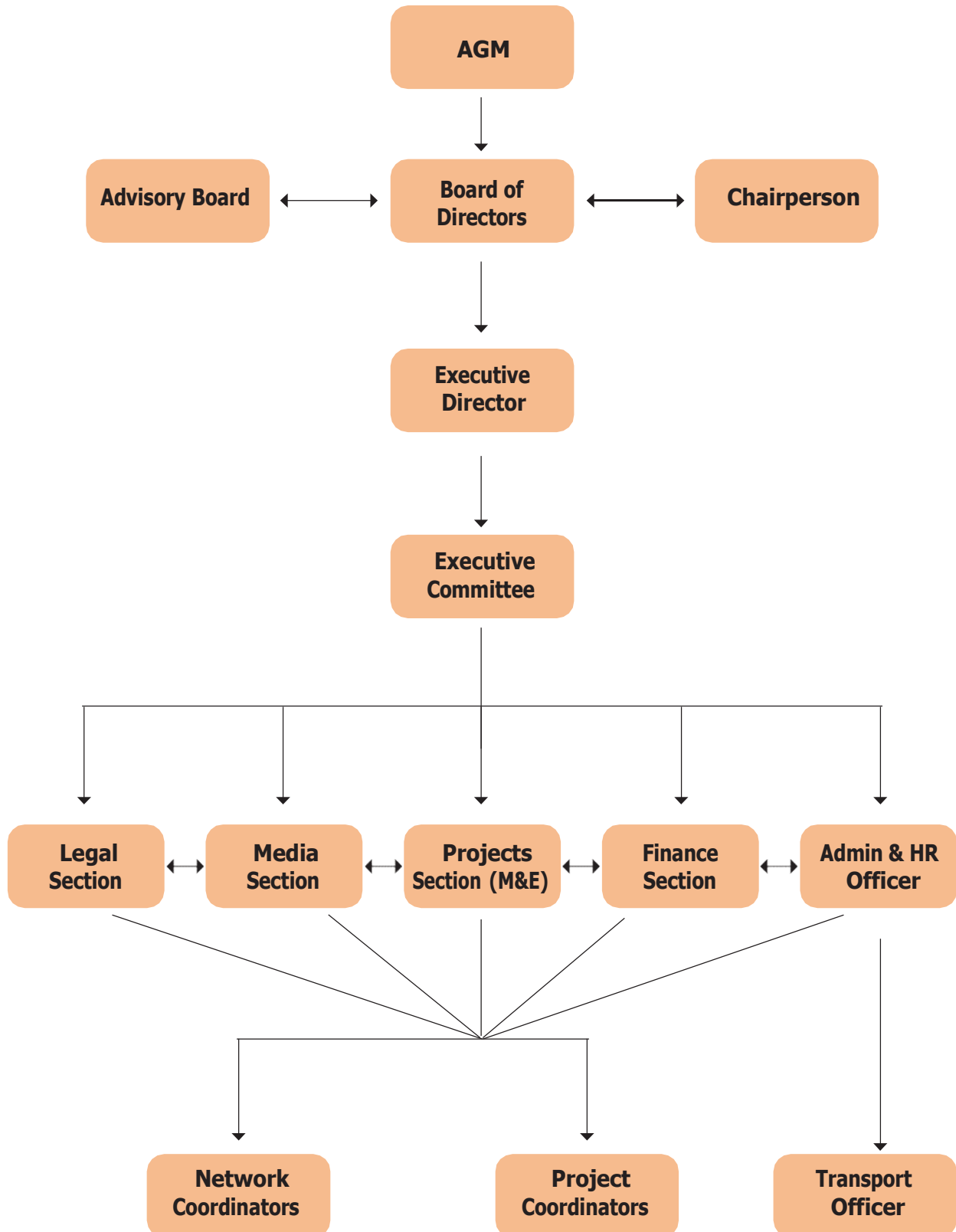


### MISSION

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.



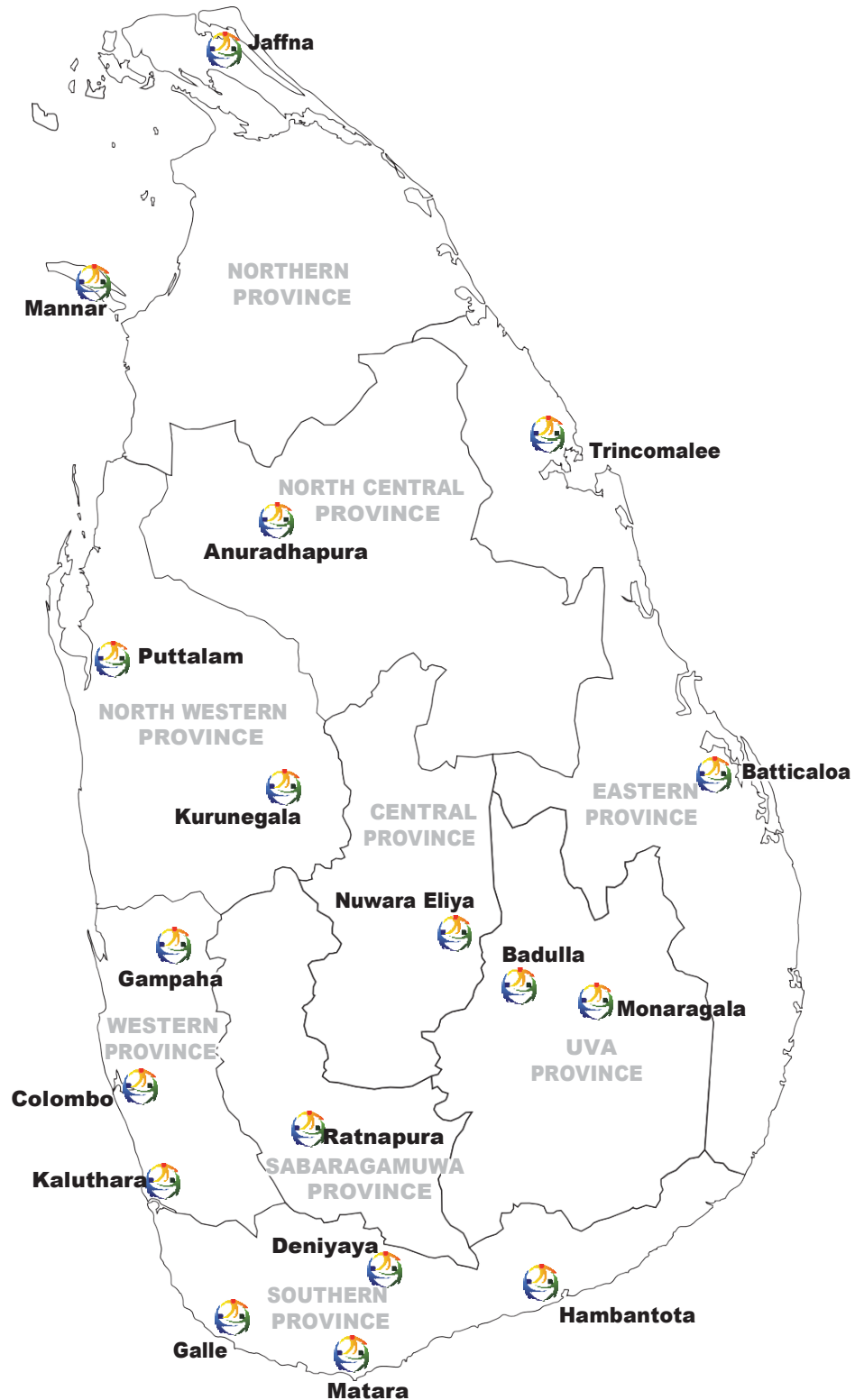
## 04. ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE



## Our Thematic Areas Of Works



## 05. OUR GEOGRAPHICAL WORKING AREAS



## 06. WORKING CONTEXT OF R2L IN YEAR 2021

At the start of 2021, Sri Lanka had been affected by the Covid19 Global Pandemic along with religious and ethnocentrism. And the two third majority in the parliament allowed the government to have solid plans to execute their proposed agenda which is again against democratic policies. Sri Lanka had been confronted with a number of serious human rights violations that can occur when a country is governed only by the executive branch during the early months in 2021 which started from March 2020 and it get stronger with Covid19 pandemic in Sri Lanka. Violation of Freedom of Speech and Expression is prominent among those violations. Especially the human rights activists, defenders, civic rights activists and all those who work on rights basis are under pressure. During this period Sri Lanka is in major economic crisis and Covid-19 pandemic crisis. In addition to these facts, because of quarantine law the network of Human Rights Defenders across the island is collapsing. Since the grassroots 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 and democratic rights island wide. The shrinking space for the civil activism is very clear with the initiations of the current government to abolish 19th amendment and to bring up a new constitution opposite to it.

## 07. PERFORMANCE OF 2021

### 7.1 Legal

The legal section is the mainstay of Right to Life. In order to eliminate torture, the most important tasks of the R2L are to identify victims, provide legal first aid, administer justice under the rule of law and educate the public and relevant authorities are doing under the legal section.

In this year as well as last year, due to the Covid-19 epidemic situation, mediation and other works were carried out for the victims amid many obstacles.

As part of the main work done by the department during the year.

- Being able to build the “Citizens for Justice” group by uniting the victims of torture cases.
- Being able to build a group of the youth community regarding the use of social media in connection with the district centers.
- Under the leadership of the district coordinators, to build a collection of civil organization leaders in each district and to take the initiative to build a discourse on the program to be brought by the government regarding the regulation of civil organizations.
- Annual legal clinics:

Legal clinic programs were held in 2021 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 Galle and Matara Districts with the focus of Human Rights First Aid Centers in December.

In addition to these, one of the two main functions of the legal section is the following information related to the handling of the victims’ case proceedings.



Cases Right to Life Human Rights Centre followed in 2021

**1st case**

Details of the incident	A youth was arrested by the pugoda police for stealing money died after being admitted to Ragama hospital due to illness inside the police cell on 12th of September 2020. 21-year-old Gayan Pushpakumara a resident in Pugoda, Madawala Kanda had died in this manner. In this area a person gives a packet of drugs in the morning to other persons who is addicted to drugs on daily basis and after that employs them to hired work which are taken by the drug dealer. Gayan was also a worker of him and on 11th of September 2020 Gayan was assigned to lass cement stones in a neighbour house. A money bag has been stolen from the motorbike of that house while gayan and another person working. The owner of the house has informed regarding the incident to the person who brought gayan and another person to work. Accordingly, he became suspicious of gayan, took him away, beat him and asked for money. Later he himself had brought Gayan home. The pugida police had also come to the house in search of gayan following a complaint lodged by the owner of the stolen money. According to gayans wife and mother the Pugoda police OIC kicked Gayan three times in the abdomen and Gayan vomited four times. In each case gayan has said that he did not steal the money. They say that he was arrested by the police on the 11th and Gayan's relatives who went to the police station were not allowed to see gayan inside the police cell. Meanwhile he was taken to the Ragama hospital due to illness and the money was found in the house where the money was lost.
How the victim came into contact	We received the information through the local media and then coordinator of Gampaha District Human Rights First Aid Centre visited the victim's place.
Perpetrators	Officer in charge of Pugoda police station and Police Sargent Samsudeen of Pugoda police station
What type of assistance was provided to the victim	Complaints were prepared and sent to Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, National Police Commission and Inspector General of Police to take necessary steps and a fundamental rights case will be filed in the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka.

**2nd case**

Details of the incident	Danushka Maduranga is a 38 years old resident of Hakmana, Matara District. He was arrested by the Hakmana Police on January 6, 2021 at around 9.00 pm. He was not informed of any reason for his arrest. After his arrest, he was brutally beaten, tortured and tortured. The youth was later produced before the Magistrate's Court in the Deiyandara area in the Matara District on January 12, 2021 on false charges. Danushka had told the Magistrate that he had been tortured in a cruel, inhuman and degrading manner at the police station. The Magistrate referred him to the Matara Government Hospital for medical treatment. He was examined by the Judicial Medical Officer at the hospital.
How the victim came into contact	We have received the case from our Human Rights activist in Hambantota
Perpetrators	Officers of the Hakmana Police Station.

What type of assistance was provided to the victim	Complaints were prepared and sent to Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, National Police Commission and Inspector General of Police to take necessary steps and a fundamental rights case has been filed in the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka.
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### 3rd case

Details of the incident	<p>Suranjith Wickramanayaka is a 41 years old resident of Poddala. He was engaged in tea plantation for the past 15 years and had commenced construction on a house for his family in the Agalawatta Division in Badureliya, Batagodawila. At the time the below mentioned events took place he had spent over Rs.250,000 and had physically engaged in constructing a home for his young family. On or about 5th October 2020 between 11.30a.m. and 12 noon, he was working in his plot of land, engaged in construction work for his proposed home. A mason named Chandrasena was assisting Suranjith with the construction work. Suranjith states that the police officers of Baduraliya police station came to his plot of land on a motorbike and ordered him to come forward. Suranjith states that the police officers attempted to hit him with his hand and he managed to lean backwards and avoid being hit. Thereafter, a one police officer kicked the Petitioner on his back, causing him to fall to the ground. Thereafter, other police officers proceeded to assault the Petitioner by hitting him with their hands and kicking him with their boots on his head, face and stomach. The Petitioner states that he feels that they continued to assault him in this manner for about 10 to 15 minutes. He incurred injuries in his eyes, lips, inside his mouth, head and legs, and was in great pain. He states that he began to feel faint as a result of the assault and the consequent pain and injuries, and therefore requested for water, which was not given to him. He states that a short while later, the police officers directed that him be taken to the Badureliya Hospital, and at approximately 3.30 p.m., Suranjith was accordingly handcuffed and taken in a Police Dima Jeep to the Badureliya Hospital by the police officers. On or about 6th October Suranjith was visited by the Acting Magistrate of Mathugama. He showed the Acting Magistrate, the injuries he had incurred in his eyes, mouth, head and legs. He states that the Acting Magistrate then signed a letter and remanded him till the 16th of October 2020.</p>
How the victim came into contact	We have received the case from our Human Rights activist in Kalutara.
Perpetrators	Police officers of Baduraliya Police Station.
What type of assistance was provided to the victim	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.



Winning 02 fundamental rights cases in which we intervened.

1. *Sandun Malinga* - Badulla Kandaketiya police torture and illegal killing.



Sandun Malinga is a 17 year old resident of Kandaketiya, Badulla. On May 7, 2014, he was on his way to Bogahapathana to buy a three-wheeler with several others when he was illegally arrested by several officers attached to the Kandaketiya Police Station. Sandun Malinga was assaulted at the time of his arrest and was later taken to the police station where he was severely tortured. The next day, on May 08, Sandun Malinga was produced before a doctor at the Kandaketiya Government Hospital, where he did not tell the doctor about the torture because he had received threats from police officers. Sandun Malinga was in a critical condition due to torture by the police but the doctor had issued a medical report without examining him properly. Later that day, Sandun Malinga was produced before the Magistrate, who made a false accusation of treasure hunting. Sandun Malinga's parents had personally produced a lawyer and told the Magistrate that Sandun Malinga had been severely tortured at the police station and was in a critical condition. However, the Magistrate did not pay attention to the matter and ordered that Sandun Malinga be remanded. After Sandun Malinga was admitted to the prison, his parents requested the prison authorities to admit him to the prison hospital for medical treatment as he was in a critical condition. Prison officials did not pay any attention to the incident and Sandun Malinga, who was in a critical condition at the time, died inside the prison.

A fundamental rights case was filed against the case under the legal aid of Right to Life in 2014 and the Supreme Court pronounced its verdict on May 21, 2021 in violation of Articles 11, 12 (1) and 13 (1) of the Constitution. That there is. Accordingly, compensation was paid. Accordingly, the police officers responsible for this incident. The petitioner was ordered to pay Rs. 540,000 as compensation and Rs. 180,000 as legal fees.

- Held that the fundamental rights mentioned in Articles 11, 12(1) and 13(1) of the Constitution have been violated.
- Ordered to pay Rs.540, 000 as compensation.
- Ordered to pay Rs.180, 000 as court fees.

2. *Chadik Shaman* - Tortured and unlawfully killed in Peliyagoda police custody.

Chadik Shaman, 42years, a resident of Ihala Bomiriya, Kaduwela, is a married and a father of two children. Chadik was abducted on February 25, 2017 at around 4.00 am by a group of Peliyagoda police officers who arrived at his residence at around 4.00 am without any reasons. It was learned

that Chadik had died due to the brutal torture of the Peliyagoda police officers. The postmortem examination was conducted at the Colombo National Hospital.

With the legal assistance of the Right to Life Human Rights Center, a fundamental rights case was filed in the Supreme Court, which pronounced its judgment on July 14, 2021, stating that the fundamental rights enshrined in the 1978 Constitution had been violated. Accordingly, a compensation of Rs. 1 million has been ordered to be paid to the petitioner.

- Deciding that the fundamental rights mentioned in Articles 11, 12(1) of the Constitution have been violated.
- As a compensation Rs. 10,000,000 ordered to pay.

#### Human Rights First Aid Centre's

##### Human Rights Defender Groups of Human Rights First Aid Centre's

Centre	Members
Gampaha	35
Galle	34
Deniyaya	40
Hambantota	35
Monaragala	32
Badulla	30
Nuwara Eliya	39
Trinco	30
Matara	30
Rathnapura	30
Kurunegala	30
Puttalam	30
Anuradhapura	30

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

Centre	Total Complaints	Human Rights Cases	Civil Cases	RTI Requests
Gampaha	90	30	60	03
Galle	52	10	42	15
Deniyaya	36	01	35	--
Hambantota	30	20	10	25
Monaragala	44	08	36	32
Badulla	20	05	15	12
Nuwareliya	29	07	22	04
Trincomalee	15	01	14	45
Matara	15	06	09	--
Anuradhapura	12	05	07	04
Kurunegala	38	12	26	05
Puttalam	45	35	10	15
Rathnapura	34	06	28	05
Total	460	146	314	165

**It has been observed that the district coordinators have come forward in various sectors based on their unique skills,**

1. To maintain the First Aid Center properly and carry out its administrative work properly.
2. Maintaining good coordination with the team of human rights activists at the Centre.
3. Intervene on human rights violations including torture and provide constructive intervention in related proceedings.
4. Organizing workshops related to human rights in the districts and building coordination with other civil organizations by developing personnel management and new human relations.
5. Using social media and new technology methods for publicity and communication.



## **7.2 Projects**

In the year 2021, Right to Life institute carried out projects under several main objectives. The objectives are as follows.

- Strengthened prevailing mechanisms to prevent torture and supporting victims of torture and HRDGs and empowering other victims through their experience.
- To promote and protect democracy in Sri Lanka and to increase the capacity and encourage of civil societies for that purpose.
- Monitor and address barriers to inclusive governance at the national and sub-national levels.
- Creating space for Ethical journalism to protect human rights and sustain democracy.

Based on these objectives, the projects we have received to work with in society and with our networks are OSF, IDEA, UNFVT, FH and NTT. Even by the year 2021, the situation of Covid-19 was not controlled in the country, but we were able to carry out the activities in the projects without skipping any. During the year, the biggest problem for us was how to effectively complete the projects within the stipulated time. Because of that, under the acknowledgment of funders the IDEA and Freedom House projects had to be extended for the year 2022.

Year 2021 was a challenging year to R2L from projects. The reason for this was that the projects in 2021 were completed in the same year and we had to work hard to get enough projects for 2022. Until now, Right to Life did not have a core fund. The necessary support to take the necessary steps and prepare plans for the necessary projects for the year 2022 was immediately received

from our board of directors and consultants. Although we took the lack of prior preparation for this as a weakness, it was also stated as a victory that we achieved by taking the necessary measures without hesitation. Due to the efforts made in the year 2021, it was possible to plan a number of projects and a portion of work at a reasonable level for the year 2022.

### 7.3 Media

Right to Life media division primarily operates through websites like Right, DailyReporter, SLCAT, Right to Life, Aithiya and Today TVU channels. Here [www.aithiya.lk](http://www.aithiya.lk) website is unique. This website uses current affairs, politics, human rights, art-culture etc. as its content. Considering the year 2021, this website has also gained a lot of people's attention as a news website.

It can be observed that the central news of the economic and political crisis that has escalated in Sri Lanka with the Covid crisis and the features arranged by each event have attracted a lot of public attention this year. It should be said here that we have selected the articles with the main purpose of providing some contribution for the reconstruction of the ideological plane that is necessary for building a good and modern state after ending the economic and political crisis.

It should be remembered that this website has done its work to promote human rights, eliminate torture, eliminate fraud and corruption, and encourage good governance. It is a work that we have consciously and carefully planned. It should be stated that this website has made an honest effort to represent pluralistic social aspirations, as well as for a single political ideology represented in the country, and is still in that effort. That is the story that the year 2021 tells us that our efforts have been successful.

Along with the [www.aithiya.lk](http://www.aithiya.lk) website, its YouTube space as Aithiya Media has taken many interviews, short documentaries etc. to YouTube subscribers in this year and it must be said that the programs received a great response from the subscribers. Many short documentaries created for the elimination of police torture and for the promotion of human rights attracted the special attention of the people. Apart from this, video conversations with politicians, artists, social activists received a lot of attention from social media subscribers.

In addition, the content of the Daily Reporter website has been set up to bring popular news to the subscribers and it must be said that the website has received a great response in the year 2021. The SLCAT web space, which was built with the purpose of reporting related information and data to the receiver with the aim of eliminating torture, also received a lot of public attention in this year.

It must be said that many subscribers seem to visit this site as a reliable source for finding information. It must be said that the official website of the right to life human rights center has done a great deal for the promotion of human rights in Sri Lanka in the year 2021.

In addition to informing the people about the human rights projects carried out by the institute, information about the human rights situation in Sri Lanka was regularly reported through this website. It should be said that this work received a lot of public attention this year. Thus, compared to the year 2020, it can be said that Right to Life media department did a lot of work and most of those works were successful. Therefore, it is a matter of happiness that a large number of people are visiting the [www.aithiya.lk](http://www.aithiya.lk) website on a daily basis. That itself is an indication of our success.

### Summary of Social Media related works and improvement.

In the study of the videos and interviews published in the YouTube channel owned by the media section of our institution in the year 2021, a total of 115 videos have been published in “Aithiya” YouTube channel, and the majority of them are about police torture. Also, videos have been published in the fields of economy, politics and culture.



Most people have watched the video “Gokarella Police deprived a student of high rank” related to police torture. It has over 23,000 views. It is also the most viewed video of all videos. After that, the video of the torture inflicted by Hakmana Police has crossed 4000 views.

Also, among the videos related to interviews, the video of Harsha Gunasena, who talks about the Chinese debt trap regarding the economy, has been watched by the most people. It is 4903. After that, among the interview videos, Ramani Muttettuwegama participated in the video titled “They tried to rule the country by putting Corona out.” It has almost 4500 views.

### *Aithiya Facebook*

The number of Page Likes was 16,028 at the end of 2020 and has grown to 17,022 by the end of 2021.

The number of followers has increased from 20,282 to 21,313.

Here, from January 1, 2021 to December 31, the amount of post reach is 438,388.

Most reached video on YouTube: “;reKhkag jev oud neg ska rd<ydn leurdjg udIgq!” <https://www.facebook.com/aithiya.lk/videos/855668858480612> (It has watched 6800)

### *Aithiya Website*

The website has grown to 237,814 total views by the end of 2021. It was 149,770 at the end of 2019.

Most reached news articles:

<https://www.aithiya.lk/7542/asp-eric-perera-minister-arundika-fernando/> - 2,813 views

<https://www.aithiya.lk/8045/attanayake-says-president-gotabaya-rajapaksha-agrees-to-pardon-ranjan-ramanayake/> - 1,648 views

<https://www.aithiya.lk/8073/public-health-inspector-upul-rohana-phi-current-covid-situation-sri-lanka/> - 1,624 views



## 7.4 Financial Position

#	Year	Donor	Project Title	Total Grant Amount (LKR)
1	2020/2021	Open Society Foundation (OSF)	Strengthening Civil Society Action to Ensure Zero Tolerance Response to Torture”	21,231,897
2	2021	Management Systems International (IDEA)	Strengthening torture prevention mechanisms through community engagement	13,153,506
3	2021	Open Society Foundation (OSF /Legal)	Demanding justice through the engagement of human rights defenders	1,505,475
4	2021	United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT)	You Are Not Alone - Support Torture Victims	3,869,700
5	2021	Freedom House (FH)	The goal of this project is protecting HRDs and advancing inclusion in Sri Lanka.	7,980,300
6	2021	National Endowment For Democracy (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.	2,936,900
7	2021	Neelan Trichelwam trust (NTT)	Ensuring Justice for Torture Survivors	1,827,600

### Financial Position 2022/2023

#	Year	Donor	Project Title	Total Grant Amount (LKR)
1	2022	United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT)	you are not alone - Support Torture Victims	5,619,700
2	2022/2023	National Endowment For Democracy (NED)	To consult on and provide input into various current or pending legislation and build the strength and capacity of other CSOs to advocate against anti-NGO legislation.	15,351,000
3	2022/2023	Open Society Foundation (OSF)	To protect and promote human rights of the marginalized	23,000,000
4	2022	Freedom House (FH)	Enhancing the Resilience of Civil Society.	6,884,104
5	2022	United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)		7,918,750
6	2023	United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT)	You Are Not Alone - Support Torture Victims	9,000,000

## 08. COLLECTIVES

### 8.1 Sri Lankan Collective against Torture

Sri Lankan Collective Against Torture (SLCAT) is a national level network which consists 28 member organizations (Right to Life Human Rights Centre, Centre for Policy Alternatives, International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism, Centre for Human Rights and Development, National Fisheries Solidarity, Rights Now Collective for Democracy, Families of the Disappeared,

Committee for Protecting Rights of Prisoners, National Peace Council, INFORM Documentation Centre, Law and Society Trust, Families Rehabilitation Centre, Human Rights Office Kandy, Rule of Law Forum, Uva Shakthi Hambantota, Human Rights Protection Shelter, Centre for Peoples Dialogue, Young Muslim Men Association, SAMADANA/M, Women's Centre, Human Rights First Aid Centre Monaragala, Community Development Foundation, Red Flag Union, Centre for Society and Religion, Human Rights First Aid Centre Galle, National Collaboration Development Foundation, Anuradhapura Citizens Committee, Human Rights First Aid Centre Kurunegala) and 12 human rights activists (Ermiza Tegal AAL, Ambika Satkunanathan AAL, Basil Fernando AAL, Ruki Fernando, Dinushika Dissanayake AAL, Prabodha Ratnayake AAL, Senaka Perera AAL, Anthony Vinoth, Tushara Wickramanayaka, Jehan Jegathesan, Mangala Fernando, Ajith Parakum) around Sri Lanka. SLCAT has restricted the physical work of the network due to covid 19. There were 5 Network meetings held online in 2021. The SLCAT webpage ([www.slcatt.org](http://www.slcatt.org)) has fully fledged with its website which consists the entire information of police torture in Sri Lanka which has been handled by SLCAT member organizations. The incidents and the details of legal interventions made by torture specially the reports that have been published so far on torture has been found easily in the website.



SLCAT has been performed 4 Press Conferences as the issues of torture which have been highlighted in 2021 and covering the International Day against Torture. SLCAT has issues timely 3 statements as a collective to address the torture issues that occurred in 2021. The torture occurred in the period of covid-19 by the state institutions have been addressed. Apart from it the social media engagement has been improved in 2021 compared to the previous years specially the Website ([www.slcatt.org](http://www.slcatt.org)) the Facebook page (SLCAT), Twitter (@

SLCATorture). The website which we have developed and upgraded in 2021 has been utilized by many law students, policy makers, diplomats and other various people who work on human rights. SLCAT dedicated its annual agenda in 2021 mainly for the torture issues occurred during the Covid19 pandemic period in Sri Lanka specifically the lockdown which has caused many violations to take place. A report on it has been published and the discourse had been continued throughout the year from the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. A campaign has been raised using digital media in the second half of the year 2021.

## 8.2 Lawyers for Human Rights.

Another goal achieved by the Right to Life in the year 2021 is the formation of lawyers for human rights Collective. This Collective of Lawyers is still in its initial stage and is expanding. Many lawyers who are associated with us for fundamental rights cases, as well as a group of junior and senior lawyers who works all over the island have also joined this.

In 2021 we tried to expand this collective. As an Initial Academic Step this Collective publish a Hand Book for Lawyer Handling Complaints of Torture. Several Lawyers who are in this Collective joined with us to file Fundamental Rights Cases. Some other Lawyers who works in outstation Bars, joined with us for support legally for Torture Victims.

This Collective is growing up now and in next years this Collective has planned to work more publicly and planned to establish a good relationship with Human Rights Defenders and try to establish a more engagement with Human Rights First Aid Centers.

### *Issues sought to be addressed*

1. The number of fundamental rights cases filed is very low compared to the number of fundamental rights violations reported. - Through a broad association of lawyers, it will be possible to avoid these situations and increase the number of lawyers who can participate in fundamental rights cases.
2. Low interest of the public to litigate fundamental rights and take action in case of violation of rights - There is a need for a group of lawyers who can act to avoid this situation.
3. Absence of a comprehensive mechanism to assist lower courts in cases against or by the victim in connection with a fundamental rights case or violation of a right. - There is a need for a comprehensive mechanism to protect the rights of the victim by standing up for such cases as well. This problem can be solved by such a broad association of lawyers spread all over the island.
4. Less number of lawyers appear in fundamental rights cases and deal with rights
5. Lack of support for individual human rights lawyers and lawyers withdrawing from the work in the field of rights due to lack of support.
6. Absence of lawyers locally to provide legal aid for non-fundamental rights issues like microfinance issues, land issues, labor issues.
7. Less opportunities for lawyers to expand their legal education knowledge.
8. Absence of lawyers to assist human rights defenders who works all over the island and lack of coordination between human rights defenders and lawyers.
9. Getting social media and mainstream media publicity for lawyers' research work, writing work.
10. Improve Lawyers roles in the Sri Lanka Collective against Torture, Journalists for Rights and Citizens for Justice.



### **8.3 New Dialog (Aluth Kathabaha)**

We are currently facing a number of serious problems that affect the major social, economic, political and cultural fields, which we have never experienced before and are unable to solve easily. In 2020, a discussion called Aluth katabaha was started with the participation of several people under the theme of creating a social upheaval instead of a government upheaval in order to bring Mein permanently.

The discussion we started to create a system of common ideas with differences in matters such as citizen responsibilities, democracy, good governance, human rights, equality, individual freedom became a wider discussion and we were able to continue successfully with the aim of building an active citizen democratic movement.

Later, it was planned to take this discussion to the regional level, and accordingly, these discussions were successfully held in 10 districts including Anuradhapura, Kantale, Kurunegala, Galle, Matara, Hambantota, Kandy, Puttalam.

The new dialog further fueled by these regional discussions is now continuing the discussion on how to create clear economic reforms in the country in order to build a state that works on the rule of law free from crime, fraud and corruption and to find solutions to the economic problems we are facing.

#### **National Collation of Civil and Non-Governmental Organizations**

After a series of discussions initiated by several NGOs about the challenges faced by civil and non-governmental organizations, the National Union of Civil and Non-Governmental Organizations has been formed by uniting a number of major non-governmental organizations. Our organization contributed to building this unity.

Programs to educate NGOs located in the southern region about the freedom of expression and organization, non-discrimination of non-governmental organizations, and the possible effects on voluntary organizations due to the Voluntary Organizations Amendment Act (VSSO Act) planned by the government. The organization was left to us. Accordingly, we were able to organize awareness programs in this regard by connecting civil and non-governmental organizations operating in 12 districts, and to contribute to their organization and enforcement.

## 09. EVENTS AND FORUMS

### International Torture Day Commemoration



“Let’s not allow the epidemic of torture in the covid epidemic!” was the theme of this year program and it was held on 26th of June 2022. Mr. Saliya Peiris (PC) - President of BAR Association, Rev. Fr. Nandana Manathunga - Human Rights Activists, Ms. Ambika Sathkunanadan (AAL) - Former Commissioner of Human Rights Commission and Mr. Philip Dissanayake the Executive Director of Right to Life Human Rights

Centre The discussion was conducted via Zoom due to Covid-19 pandemic and moderated by lawyer, Dulan Dassanayake. Large number of human rights activists were also took part in the discussion via zoom.

A documentary which is based on injustice faced by student named Kanchana Pradeep was screened at the beginning of the program. This student who scheduled to sit for the GCE Advanced Level examination was arrested by Gokarella Police and accused for possessing drugs.



### International Right to Information Day - 28/09/2022

In the year 2021, the International Right to Information Day was held on 28th September 2021 through Zoom technology with the support of Journalists for Rights Collective. For this, former Minister of Media Dallas Alahapperuma, former speaker Karu Jayasuriya, Member of Parliament Karu Paranavithana, Member of Parliament Shanikyan Rasamanikkam, lawyer S. G. Punchihewa and lawyer Radhika Gunaratne joined as speakers.

### International Human Rights Day - 17/12/2021

“Deterioration of human rights exacerbates economic crisis!” was the theme of this year program. Professor Rohan Samarajeeva, Director of Paffrel Institute Rohana Hettiarachi, Mr. Prabodha Ratnayake - AAL, Former Member of Parliament Eran Wickramaratne and Mr. Dulan Dasanayake - AAL participated in this program as the panelists. Also, four research report which was conducted by the interns of our institute were publicize at this event.

## 10. PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTIONS

The year 2021 is a year in which many publications and researches have been published by the Right to Life Human Rights Centre. There, 04 research reports were presented in 04 fields, mainly addressing some of the country's current grant problems identified by Right to Life. Based on those reports, many programs were held and the society was also informed through them. In addition, a book has been published about a case that did not get justice for 21 years.

'Yukthiya Noladha 21k wasarak' (21 years without Justice) book includes the information relevant to the case of Shriyani Silva vs Iddamalgoda; Payagagala OIC that has the very famous judgment. This case about a death of Mr. Lasantha Jagath Kumara that happened under the police custody. Mrs. Amitha Priyanthi; the sister of Lasantha is being searched the justice for her brother's death for 21 years and later become a Human Rights activist. In this book she has shared her experience in the journey of searching justice and Sri Lankan Judicial system. And also this includes the information about the case and this book is very helpful for law students, lawyers, human rights activists and all the people who are interested in these relevant fields.

Research reports published on 4 different issues named micro finance issue, migrant workers' issue, child abuse and prison issues. Short analysis on Child Abuse in Sri Lanka discuss about is there any incensement in child abuse Sri Lanka. The social aspects of migrant workers' tragedy discuss about the situation of the migrant workers in current context. Another report discuss about the impact of providing Microfinance loans on the Economy and Living Quality of Rural people in Sri Lanka. And a translation of the national report on prisons published by Right to Life. These all publications made a dialogue in the society on above topics.

**Victim Story:** 21 years without Justice

**Research:** Micro finance issue, migrant workers' issue, child abuse and prison issues

**Documentary:** 5th Narakadiya & Bitter Darkness

