
**Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka:
Study of Role and
Complaint Investigation**

Right to Life Human Rights Centre

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RIGHT TO LIFE
HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE

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Foreword

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) can be regarded as an institution dedicated to promoting and safeguarding human Rights within Sri Lanka. Established through the HRCSL Act No. 21 of 1996, this body has evolved into a comprehensive investigative authority with extensive powers to address and investigate human Rights violations. This study aims to explore the journey of the HRCSL, its roles, and its development over the years.

This study centers on analyzing the significant contributions of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) by examining its institutional framework, powers, and role. The commission's mandate extends across civil and political Rights, as well as social, economic, and cultural Rights, while also addressing the Rights of vulnerable groups. This comprehensive approach has enabled the HRCSL to effectively address a wide array of issues affecting individuals and communities.

While observing the complaint investigation procedure of the HRCSL, this report explores the powers vested in the commission to investigate complaints of human Rights violations. The HRCSL has the authority to collect evidence, summon witnesses, conduct field visits, and make recommendations for justice and remediation. By examining the stages in the complaint investigation procedure, the report aims to provide an understanding of the commission's commitment to transparency, fairness, and accountability in fulfilling its missions.

The operation and collaboration of the HRCSL with government institutes, civil society organizations, and international organizations have empowered the commission to advocate for policy changes, advocate for reforms, and foster a human Rights culture within Sri Lanka. However, this report aims to address the challenges confronted by the commission, including limited resources, delays in implementing recommendations, and systemic issues that necessitate substantial structural changes.

Our expectation is that this report will provide a comprehensive understanding of the role and complaint investigation procedure of HRCSL. We aim to enhance the efficiency of HRCSL within Sri Lanka and foster meaningful discussions and recommendations by examining the commission's evolution, impact, and challenges.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to all the individuals, organizations, and partners who provided valuable insights, data, and support. Their contributions have been invaluable in preparing and enriching this report.

We hope that this report will become a valuable resource for policy makers, researchers, and activists, not only in Sri Lanka but also worldwide.

Introduction

HRCSL plays a crucial role in safeguarding, improving, and promoting human Rights in Sri Lanka. Established under the HRCSL Act No. 21 of 1996, the commission has been operational for 26 years, starting from its inception in July 1997.

Currently, the commission faces significant criticism for not adhering to international standards in appointing commissioners and in its overall functioning. This has led to the commission being downgraded from A grade to B grade. There are concerns about the lengthy time taken for complaint investigations and providing recommendations, as well as the lack of implementation of these recommendations by certain government officials and institutions even after considerable waiting periods. Victims also express frustration over the lack of adequate recommendations in proportion to the time and effort they invest in filing complaints. Additionally, there has been a gradual decline in public trust in the commission due to these issues.

Despite the criticism, the commission has managed to regain a certain level of public trust by taking swift action in response to human Rights violations in the country, even without receiving formal complaints. The commission has proactively called in major parties involved and provided recommendations to address these violations. Notably, it has established a quick response unit specifically dedicated to addressing cases of torture and extrajudicial killings. Additionally, the commission has worked to streamline police station examinations and expedite the processing of pending public complaints. Furthermore, it has increased transparency and accountability by publishing its recommendations, announcements, and guidelines aimed at protecting human Rights in Sri Lanka.

We have chosen to publish this report with the aim of safeguarding and enhancing human Rights in Sri Lanka. Our objective is to strengthen and optimize the functioning of the HRCSL, ensuring that its staff, including commissioners, are appointed through an independent procedure free from political interference. By doing so, we hope to encourage public discussions on this matter, increasing the involvement of citizens who are knowledgeable about their Rights and actively participate in promoting and protecting human Rights in the country.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to analyze and study the current functioning of the HRCSL, which was established under the HRCSL Act No. 21 of 1996. By doing so, the study aims to provide recommendations that will strengthen and enhance the efficiency of the human Rights safeguarding procedure. It seeks to achieve this by identifying the limitations of the commission and proposing measures to overcome them.

Additionally, the study aims to identify and address complementary factors that impact human Rights protection, shedding light on practical issues faced by citizens. Furthermore, it aims to empower human Rights defenders by expanding their knowledge and understanding of the human Rights landscape in Sri Lanka.

Limitations of the Study

In this study, we conducted an examination of the functioning of the HRCSL by submitting complaints to the commission through Human Rights First Aid Centres. Additionally, we utilized data available on the HRCSL's website as secondary data to complement our analysis. The scope of the study encompasses the entire process, starting from the registration of the complaint to the initiation of investigations, and finally, the provision of recommendations once the investigations are completed.

One of the significant challenges we encountered while preparing this report was the inability to establish contact with some of the victims who filed complaints to the commission through our human Rights first aid centres. As a result, we faced difficulties in obtaining updates and further information on certain complaints. This limitation impacted our ability to provide a comprehensive assessment of the outcomes and progress of these specific cases.

Study Methodology

The methodology adopted for this study involved a comprehensive approach to gather relevant information regarding the independence, functioning, and effectiveness of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL). To ensure a robust analysis, data was collected from various sources, including media reports, newspaper articles, HRCSL Act No. 21 of 1996, data available on the HRCSL website, and interviews.

Primary data was obtained through interviews conducted with individuals, specifically focusing on a selected group of 50 complaints that were filed with the Commission between May 2022 and April 2023. These complaints were received through human Rights first aid centers situated in different districts, namely Gampaha, Matara, Galle, Kurunegala, Trincomalee, and Puttalam.

Alongside primary data, secondary data from diverse sources such as media reports, HRCSL website data, HRCSL Act No. 21 of 1996, and other relevant documents were also utilized.

01 | Background

01. Human Rights Framework

The establishment of the United Nations on 24th October 1945 marked the beginning of a new era of enthusiasm for human Rights. Since then, numerous human Rights organizations and movements have emerged, dedicated to overseeing, promoting, safeguarding, and providing guidance on human Rights issues worldwide. The landmark Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted on 10th December 1948, laid the foundation for many international and regional agreements centered around human Rights principles. These agreements have played a crucial role in creating a comprehensive international and regional human Rights framework.

Subsequently, many states incorporated human Rights standards into their domestic laws, leading to the establishment of local mechanisms to address human Rights concerns.

The framework to safeguard and promote human Rights is as follows:

- 1.1 International Framework
- 1.2 Regional Framework
- 1.3 Local Framework

1.1 International Framework

The UNO has created a global plan to safeguard human Rights and fundamental freedoms. As the only intergovernmental organization with worldwide acceptance, the UNO has the authority to legislate international human Rights laws. The UNO's human Rights framework consists of three major sections.

- Establishing International standards through charters, treaties, declarations, and documents.
- Providing authority to examine various functions for special rapporteurs, experts and working groups, committees, and contracted organizations.
- Offering guidance and technical support in the human Rights field.

The UN human Rights framework utilizes the following bodies to address and work on human Rights issues.

- 1.1.1 Charter-based bodies - Entities that were established by the UN Charter and other related treaties or conventions.
- 1.1.2 Treaty-based bodies - Independent expert committees or working groups responsible for monitoring the implementation of specific human Rights treaties or conventions.

1.2 Regional Frameworks

Regional frameworks contain essential components of the international framework to promote and safeguard human Rights. A regional framework refers to a specific mechanism or institution located in a particular geographical region that focuses on promoting and safeguarding human Rights within that region. While these regional frameworks collaborate with the international framework, they prioritize addressing human Rights issues within their respective regions. They play a crucial role in monitoring compliance with human Rights standards, addressing regional challenges, and providing a platform for cooperation and discussions among member nations.

Regional frameworks for human Rights were developed in response to the specific contexts and needs of different regions. Following are some examples of prominent regional frameworks:

Region	Established mechanism or the institution
Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights ■ African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
The Americas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ■ Inter-American Court of Human Rights ■ Inter-American Women's Commission
Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights ■ European Court of Human Rights
The Arab Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Arab Charter on Human Rights
Southeast Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights

1.3 Local Framework

A human Rights framework is essential for ensuring the promotion and protection of human Rights within a country. It should be an accountable institution that monitors and enforces compliance with both national and international human Rights conventions, while also overseeing the actions of the government. Through complaint investigation and remediation, it provides guidance to victims of human Rights violations. This kind of local framework plays a significant role in safeguarding human Rights standards and principles, protecting the Rights of citizens, and nurturing a culture that respects human Rights within the country. Following are the main institutions established locally to ensure fundamental Rights and offer protection in case of a violation.

1.1.1. Supreme Court of Sri Lanka

1.1.2. The Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman)

1.1.3. Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

1.3.1. Supreme Court of Sri Lanka

- The Supreme Court is the highest and final court in Sri Lanka, possessing the authority to act under the provisions of the Sri Lanka Constitution and enforce its powers.
- Article 17 of the constitution provides provisions for an individual to apply to the Supreme Court in case of an infringement or imminent infringement, by executive or administrative action, of a fundamental right.

- Article 126 of the constitution grants the Supreme Court sole and exclusive jurisdiction to hear and determine any question related to the infringement or imminent infringement, by executive or administrative action, of any fundamental right or language right.

1.3.2. The Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman)

- The Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, commonly known as the Ombudsman, serves as a crucial institution where individuals can seek relief when their fundamental Rights are violated or when they experience injustices caused by administrative decisions made by officials of the State, Public Corporations, Local Government Institutions, or similar organizations.

1.3.3. Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

- The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) is a constitutional institution established under the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka Act No. 21 of 1996, which was presented to the parliament in August 1996.

02 | **The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka Act No. 21 of 1996**

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) Act No. 21 of 1996 establishes the HRCSL as an independent constitutional institution with the primary responsibility of promoting and safeguarding human rights in Sri Lanka. The Act provides the legal framework for the HRCSL's structure, functions, activities, and powers.

Its prelude states;

“An act to provide for the establishment of the human rights commission of Sri Lanka; to set out the powers and functions of such commission; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

Overall, this act establishes the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, defining its powers and functions, and provides a legal framework to ensure the HRCSL's role in promoting and safeguarding human rights, as well as holding accountable those responsible for human rights violations.

1. HRCSL Act No. 21 of 1996 <https://hrsl.lk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/HRCSL-Act-Sinhala.pdf>

03 | Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

The purpose of establishing a Human Rights Commission in Sri Lanka

With the establishment of international and regional human rights frameworks, many states have incorporated human rights standards into their domestic laws, leading to the creation of local mechanisms to address human rights concerns. The Paris Principles, proposed by nations gathered in Paris in 1991, recommended the establishment of independent human rights commissions. These factors contributed to the regularization of local frameworks in UN member nations. As a result, the HRCSL was established under the HRCSL Act No. 21 of 1996, presented to the parliament on 21st August 1996, and commenced operations in July 1997.²

Definition of Human Rights according to the HRCSL Act

"Human right" is defined as a right that is declared and recognized by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.³

Vision

Ensure human rights for all and promote and protect the rule of law.

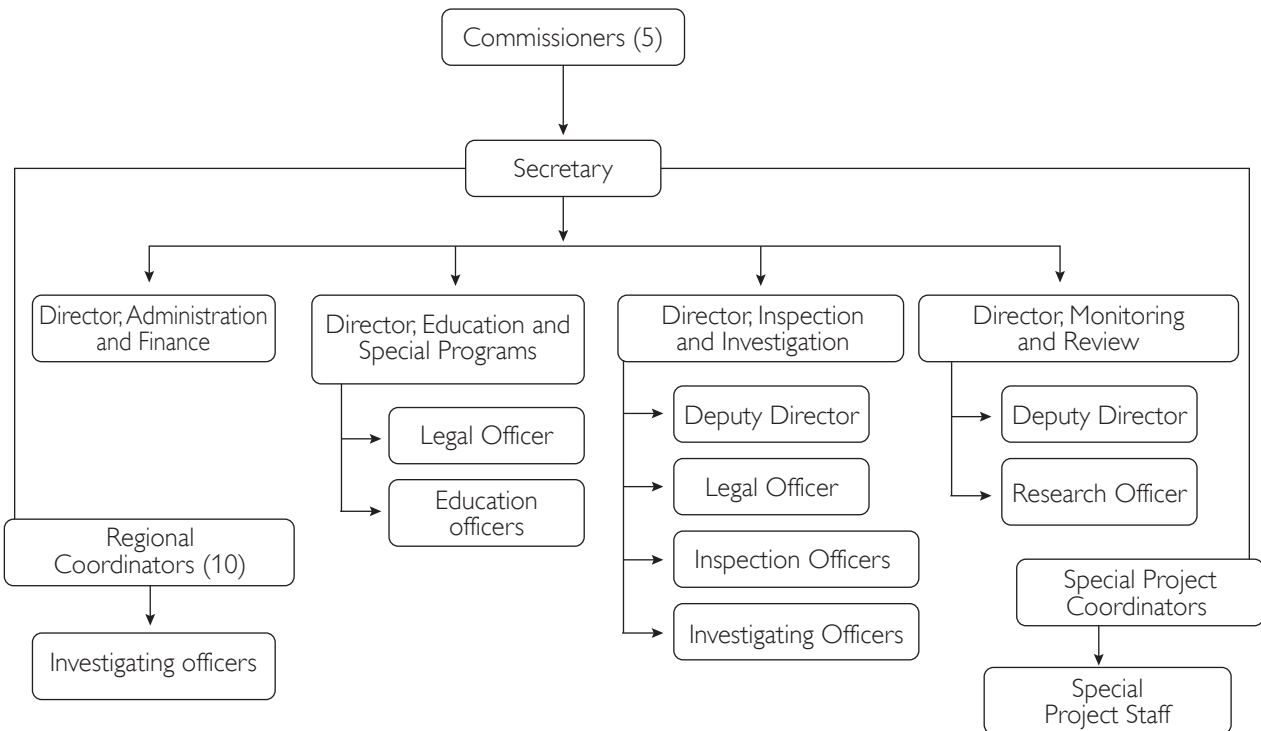
Mission

Develop a human rights culture in Sri Lanka through the protection and promotion of human rights for all in law, policy and in practice whilst adhering to universally recognized human rights norms and principles with a special emphasis on the fundamental rights guaranteed under the Sri Lankan Constitution for the citizens of Sri Lanka.

2. <https://www.samabima.com/?p=21589>

3. 1996 අංක 21 දරන ශ්‍රී ලංකා මානව හිමිකම් කොමිෂන් සභා පනත. <https://hrsl.lk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/HRCSL-Act-Sinhala.pdf>

Composition and the Term of Office of the Commission



- The Commission consists of five members, chosen from among individuals who have knowledge of, or practical experience in, matters relating to human rights.
- The member of the Commission shall be appointed by the president, on the recommendation of the Constitutional Council.
- In making recommendations, the Prime Minister shall consider the importance of ensuring representation of minorities on the Commission.
- One of the members so appointed shall be nominated by the President to be the Chairman of the Commission.
- The Chairman of the commission also serves as its Chief Executive Officer.
- Every member of the Commission shall hold office for a period of three years.

Current Members

- Justice Rohini Marasinghe - Chairperson
- Kalupahana Piyaratana Thera
- Dr. M.H. Nimal Karunasiri
- Dr. Vijitha Nanayakkara
- Anusuya Shanmuganathan
- Dr. Jagath Balasuriya - Chairperson (From 10th December 2020 to 31st October 2021)
- H.K. Nawaratne Weraduwa - Commissioner (From 10th December 2020 to 11th October 2021)

The Functions of the Commission

- (a) Inquire into and investigate complaints related to violations of fundamental rights and procedures, with the objective of ensuring compliance with the constitutional provisions on fundamental rights and promoting respect for and observance of fundamental rights.
- (b) Inquire into and investigate complaints concerning violations or potential violations of fundamental rights. It is also responsible for resolving such complaints through conciliation and mediation, as outlined in the subsequent provisions.
- (c) Advising and assisting the government in the development of legislation and administrative directives and procedures that aim to promote and protect fundamental rights.
- (d) Make recommendations to the government on measures that should be taken to align national laws and administrative practices with international human rights norms and standards.
- (e) Provide recommendations to the government on the necessity of subscribing to or acceding to treaties and other international instruments related to human rights.
- (f) Promoting awareness of and providing education related to human rights.⁴

Powers of the Commission

- (a) Investigate any infringement or imminent infringement of fundamental rights in accordance with the provisions of this Act.
- (b) Intervene in any proceedings relating to the infringement or imminent infringement of fundamental rights, pending before any court, with the permission of such court.
- (c) Intervene in any proceedings relating to the infringement or imminent infringement of fundamental rights, pending before any court, with the permission of such court.
- (d) Monitor the welfare of persons detained either by a judicial order or otherwise, by regular inspection of their places of detention, and to make such recommendations as may be necessary for improving their conditions of detention.
- (e) The commission must follow any instructions given to it by the Supreme Court in relation to matters referred to it by the Supreme Court.
- (f) Undertake research into, and promote awareness of, human rights, by conducting programs, seminars and workshops and to disseminate and distribute the results of such research.
- (g) Award in its absolute discretion to an aggrieved person or a person acting on behalf of an aggrieved person, such sum of money as is sufficient to meet the expenses that may have been reasonably incurred by him in making a complaint to the Commission.
- (h) Perform any other necessary or supportive actions that are conducive to fulfilling its functions effectively.⁵

4. 1996 අංක 21 දරන ශ්‍රී ලංකා මානව හිමිකම් කොමිෂන් සභා පනත. <https://hrctl.lk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/HRCSL-Act-Sinhala.pdf>

5. 1996 අංක 21 දරන ශ්‍රී ලංකා මානව හිමිකම් කොමිෂන් සභා පනත. <https://hrctl.lk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/HRCSL-Act-Sinhala.pdf>

Types of complaints that can be filed with the commission	The commission can accept complaints on fundamental rights violations or potential violations as outlined in the third chapter of the constitution.
Groups that can file complaints with the commission	Any victimized individual, group, representative, or organization acting on behalf of the victimized party has the right to file a complaint
Languages to submit complaints	Complaints can be submitted in Sinhala, Tamil, or English
Ability to investigate without receiving a formal complaint	The commission has the ability to investigate in cases of fundamental rights violations without receiving a formal complaint. Ex: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Incident involving a school student getting injured from a police shooting in Midellawala, Matara. ■ Incident involving the death of an individual from police shooting during a protest at Rambukkana. ■ This incident involving the deaths of a few prisoners inside the Mahara prison ■ The incident involving the extrajudicial kidnapping and killing of two businessmen in Rathgama. ■ The incident of denying entry to pregnant mothers who were wearing a burkha at a family health clinic in Atalugama.
Ability to report to the supreme court regarding the complaints	In some cases, the commission is advised to investigate and report on complaints by the Supreme Court.
Content of a complaint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The right that is violated ➤ Whose rights are violated? ➤ Who is responsible for the violation of rights? ➤ How were the rights violated? ➤ When and where the said rights were violated ➤ What do you expect as remediation?
Requirement of a legal representative to file the complaints	No legal representative required
What happens to the complaints that does not fall under the purview of the commission?	Those complaints are forwarded to the relevant remediation institutions established by the government.
Complaining long time after the incident	The commission has the ability to investigate complaints received a long time after the incident if there are justifiable reasons.
The ability to receive the services of the commission free-of-charge	All the services of the commission can be obtained free-of-charge

<p>In cases of arresting or detention of individuals</p>	<p>In case of an arrest or detention made under the Prevention of Terrorism Act or the Public Security Ordinance, the individual who gave the order of arrest or detention should promptly inform the commission within 48 hours of the incident, providing details about the incident and the location of detention.</p> <p>Also, in the event of the release or transfer of an individual in detention or arrest, the commission should be updated accordingly.</p> <p>Individuals who violate this requirement can be subjected to a prison sentence or a fine upon a short hearing in front of a magistrate.</p> <p>The commission has the ability to examine the detention conditions of an individual by entering a detention location, police station, prison, or any other location.</p>
<p>The procedure of the commission in case of detecting and non-detecting violations of fundamental rights in investigations.</p>	<p>Upon investigation of violation or potential violation of human rights,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In case of non-detection, the complainant should be informed within thirty (30) days upon reporting the findings. ➤ In case of detecting a violation, the incident can be forwarded for settlement or reconciliation as deemed fit. <p>However;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In cases deemed not fit to forward for settlement or reconciliation, ■ In cases where the commission deems it fit to forward the case for settlement or reconciliation, but either all the parties or one party objects to settlement or reconciliation, ■ In cases where attempts to settle or reconcile the matter fail, <p>The commission can recommend that the relevant authorities prosecute or take alternative action regarding the fundamental rights violator in those cases.</p>

6. 1996 අංක 21 දරන ශ්‍රී ලංකා මානව හිමිකම් කොමිෂන් සභා පනත. <https://hrctl.lk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/HRCSL-Act-Sinhala.pdf>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The commission can provide recommendations it deems fit to the relevant authorities or individuals to prevent the relevant violation or the continuation of such, or to remediate it. <p>Furthermore, the commission has the ability to,</p> <p>Regarding an act leading to a fundamental right violation or potential violation,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The commission can provide recommendations to reevaluate the said omission or correct it. ➤ The commission can provide recommendations to reevaluate the decision or correct it. ➤ The commission can recommend changes to any practice based on the relevant decision, omission, act, or recommendation. ➤ The commission can recommend that reasons be provided for any practice based on the relevant decision, omission, act, or recommendation. <p>In case of a fundamental right violation or potential violation, the accused should be given the opportunity to present their case before the commission. If the accused is not given this opportunity, the commission should refrain from providing any recommendations until a fair and proper hearing is conducted.</p> <p>A copy of the commission's recommendation should be sent to the complainant's superior at the relevant institution and the relevant minister.</p> <p>The commission has the authority to order the relevant institution or individual, who has received the recommendation, to report on the actions taken or intended to be taken to enforce the recommendation within a specific period mentioned in the recommendation.</p> <p>If the relevant institution or individual neglects or fails to take sufficient actions in response to the commission's recommendation, or if the commission deems the actions taken as inadequate, then the commission has the authority to prepare and present a full report on the matter to the President of Sri Lanka.</p> <p>After receiving the report, the President is required to take steps to present a copy of that report to the Parliament.</p>
<p>Procedure for settlement or reconciliation</p>	<p>The commission can appoint one or more persons to settle or conciliate between the parties.</p> <p>The Commission can direct the parties to appear before the conciliators or mediators for the purpose of conciliation or mediation.</p>

	<p>These settings may be held in secrecy.</p> <p>In cases where conciliation or mediation is not successful or where one party objects to the process, the conciliator or mediator handling the case will report the outcome to the Commission.</p> <p>In cases where the conciliators or mediators are successful in resolving the matter through conciliation or mediation, they are required to inform the Commission about the settlement that has been reached.</p> <p>Where a matter is referred to for conciliation or mediation under this section and a settlement is arrived at, the Commission shall make such directions as may be necessary to give effect to such settlement.</p>
Powers relating to inquiries	<p>The commission has the authority to procure and receive all kinds of evidence, whether written or oral, and to examine any individuals considered necessary or desirable as witnesses.</p> <p>The commission has the authority to require witnesses to give their evidence, whether written or oral, on oath or affirmation.</p> <p>The commission has the authority to summon any person residing in Sri Lanka to give evidence or produce any document or other relevant item in their possession.</p> <p>The Commission can also examine the person as a witness or request them to produce any necessary documents or items.</p> <p>The commission has the authority to decide whether to admit or exclude the public from any inquiry or investigation, or any part thereof.</p>

04 | The Role of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

Human rights are inherent and inalienable rights that every individual is entitled to simply by being human, and they cannot be separated from them. Sri Lanka has shown the significance it places on human rights by including a separate chapter for fundamental rights in its constitution and establishing a Human Rights Commission.

When examining the operations of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) empowered by the constitution and its own Act, it was found that the commission has taken commendable steps to efficiently carry out its duties. One of these steps is the procedure to examine whether a received complaint falls under their purview. In the past, the commission received numerous complaints that were outside their jurisdiction, leading to issues regarding the time spent on such cases. However, with the new system in place, this is no longer a concern as the commission has the ability to identify these complaints at the initial stage.

The mechanism implemented by the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) to address human rights violations at the grassroots level is highly commendable. One notable example of this is the establishment of civil society circles in relevant areas through their regional offices.

The functioning of the HRCSL has not been immune to public criticism. One area of concern has been the appointment of commissioners lacking experience in human rights matters. Another point of criticism is the perceived lack of legal power that the commission possesses to enforce the implementation of its recommendations. These criticisms have led to a perception among some members of the public that filing complaints with the HRCSL may not yield effective results.

Not only that, in October 2021, Global Alliance of National Human Rights institutions (GANHRI) downgraded the HRCSL to grade B following a review. This was the second time that GANHRI had downgraded the commission. The erosion of the HRCSL's autonomy was attributed to both the 18th and 20th amendments to the constitution. However, the autonomy was later reestablished through the 19th amendment.

In GANHRI sub-committee on accreditation report, GANHRI cites the inadequacy of autonomy and effectiveness of the commission in accordance with the Paris Principles, lack of speaking out regarding all human rights violations, including torture and death during police custody, lack of speaking on safeguarding and promoting all human rights, and failing to present a parallel report to the UNHRC as the main reasons for the downgrade of HRCSL.

Journalist Tharindu Uduwaragedara expressed the following opinion regarding the functioning and mediation of the HRCSL on recent human rights violation cases in Sri Lanka.

7. Liyanaarachchi, J., & Dissanayake, D. (2020). ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ස්වදේශ රාජ්‍ය කොමිෂන් සභා: ඉතිහාසය, බලතල, ක්‍රියාකාරීත්වය සහ ස්වභාවය [Sinhala]. PAFFREL.

During the recent struggle times, as journalists and social activists, we frequently visited the HRCSL to file complaints, provide information, and request their intervention. Whenever we invited them to pay observational visits during the struggle times, their officials came to those locations. Additionally, when we requested them to investigate human rights violations, they promptly took steps to investigate the said matters. For instance, an investigation was requested from the HRCSL regarding the March 31st incident in Mirihana, and the case was still ongoing until recently. Similarly, the HRCSL was asked to investigate the incident in Rambukkana on April 19th, and following their observations, they even published a report on it.

Tharindu Uduwaragedara expresses his satisfaction with the functioning and mediation of the HRCSL after visiting the commission several times and experiencing their responses. He commends the commission's action of sending a letter to the IGP, citing several Fundamental Rights (FR) petitions regarding recent assaults on protest walks while violating laws in the Penal Code and Police Ordinance.

However, he points out that the commission's actions are often undermined by the political body, and this affects its autonomy and functioning. Tharindu believes that the commission should be granted more legal power through an amendment to strengthen its effectiveness. While it may not be a legal requirement, he suggests that other institutions should respect the commission's recommendations as a necessary measure to enhance its impact in safeguarding human rights.

Today, the HRCSL remains as an undermined institution. Tharindu expressed his belief that investigating after people's rights are violated is futile and giving power to the commission under such circumstances would be a mockery, particularly if an act like the Anti-Terrorism Bill is passed. He emphasized that the commission should not be reduced to merely a research center that provides recommendations and compiles reports. While Tharindu is content with the HRCSL and its functioning, he is dissatisfied with the level of regard other institutions show towards the commission.

HRCSL is still graded as B after the 2021 downgrade by GANHRI. This could be attributed to the erosion of its autonomy caused by recent constitutional amendments, and a lack of significant progress in maintaining autonomy and effectiveness in line with the Paris Principles. Another crisis faced by the commission is the low implementation rate of its recommendations. Despite providing numerous recommendations, they are seldom acted upon by the political authorities and government institutions, leading to a hindrance in the commission's effectiveness.

To overcome these limitations, it is essential to enhance the commission's power through legal reforms. Additionally, the commission should be protected from being undermined by any institution or political authority. By doing so, the commission will gain the recognition and acceptance it rightfully deserves, ultimately bolstering its autonomy and public trust in its capabilities.

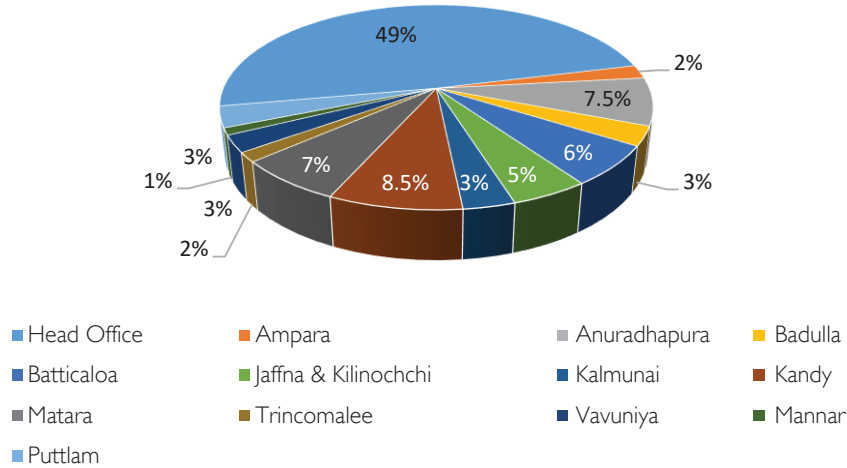
05 | An analysis of the complaints and recommendations received by the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

5.1 2021 Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka Complaints: Categorization and Geographical Distribution

Type of complaint	Regional Office											Regional Office	Head Office	Grand Total	
	Ampara	Anuradhapura	Badulla	Batticaloa	Jaffna & Kilinochchi	Kalmunai	Kandy	Matara	Trincomalee	Vavuniya	Mannar				Puttalam
Personal Liberty	17	112	21	51	109	51	93	155	39	56	25	84	813	803	1616
(a) Torture (Physical and mental)	3	36	1	5	26	4	18	13	4	7	5	12	134	168	302
(b) Degrading treatment	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	2	1	-	-	3	12	-	12
(c) Harassment	2	4	13	9	30	25	23	-	9	34	11	32	192	199	391
(d) Sexual Harassment	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	8
(e) Threats	-	7	-	10	23	3	-	34	2	1	-	18	98	-	98
(f) Arbitrary Arrest/Detention	12	65	7	27	24	19	51	99	23	14	9	19	369	403	772
(g) Death in Custody	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	11	13
(h) Extra-Judicial Killings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(i) Enforced disappearance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(j) Missing persons**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
k) Prisoners Rights	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	5	15	20
Other Civil & Political Rights	-	-	-	4	2	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	12	3	15
Employment	17	48	38	24	30	34	120	51	8	17	3	34	424	387	811
Education	-	3	7	25	9	13	52	60	-	1	1	11	182	135	317
State Welfare Services	-	-	-	3	16	8	15	4	4	1	3	4	58	-	58
Infrastructure & Utilities	1	-	4	-	3	7	11	1	-	2	-	3	32	8	40

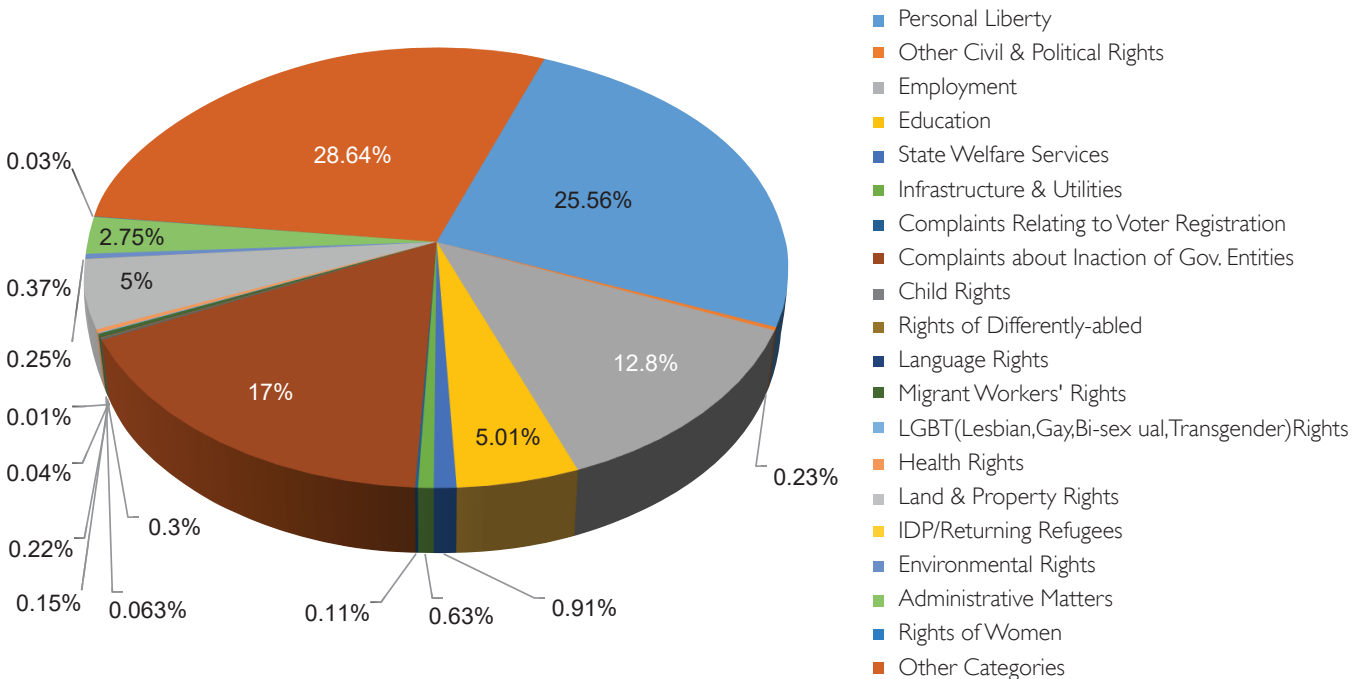
The complaints received by the HRCSL and its regional offices in 2021 are indicated in the above table. When presented as a percentage, they look as follows:

Complaints received by the HRCSL and its regional offices in 2021



It can be observed from the above data that out of the total complaints received, 49% (3,094) were received by the main office. The remaining complaints were distributed as follows: Ampara - 2% (135), Anuradhapura - 7.5% (476), Badulla - 3% (191), Batticaloa - 6% (400), Jaffna and Killinochchi - 5% (311), Kalmunai - 3% (207), Kandy - 8.5% (532), Matarara - 7% (434), Trincomalee - 2% (95), Vavuniya - 3% (168), Mannar - 1% (69), and Puttalam - 3% (210).

Nature of complaints received by Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission in 2021



The data reveals that the highest number of human rights violations in 2021, totaling 25.56% (1,616), are reported in the field of personal liberties. Within this field, the majority of complaints were related to unlawful arrests and detention, accounting for 12.21% (772) of the total complaints. The main office received the highest number of complaints (403) regarding unlawful arrests and detention, while the Matara regional office received the highest number of such complaints among the regional offices (99).

The second-highest number of complaints, 6.1% (391) of the total, were related to harassment. Among these complaints, the main office received the most (199), and the Vavuniya regional office received the highest number of such complaints among the regional offices (34).

Among other human rights violations, the highest number of complaints, totaling 17% (1,080) of the total, were related to the inaction of government entities. The second-highest number of complaints, 811 in total, were related to human rights violations in employment.

In contrast, complaints about other human rights violations, such as child and women's rights, language rights, rights of differently-abled individuals, rights of IDP/returning refugees, and LGBT rights, were received in very small amounts.

However, a significant percentage of the complaints received, totaling 28.64% (1,811) of the total, did not fall under the purview of the commission. The majority of these complaints were received by the main office (1,496), followed by the Matara regional office (95). Among the regional offices, the highest number of complaints in 2021 was received by the Kandy office (532), while the Mannar office received the lowest number of complaints (69).

5.2 2022 Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka Complaints: Categorization and Geographical Distribution

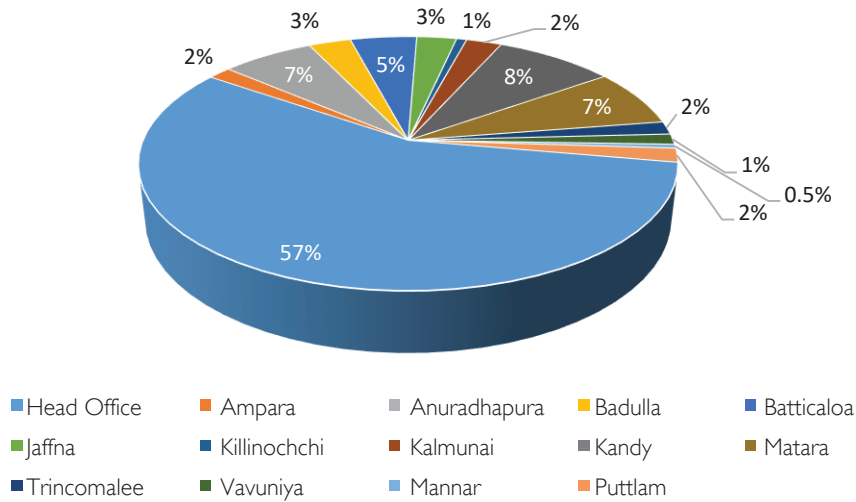
Types of Complaints	Region												Regional Office	Head Office	Grand Total	
	Ampara	Anuradhapura	Badulla	Batticaloa	Jaffna	Kilinochchi	Kalmunai	Kandy	Matarata	Trincomalee	Vavuniya	Mannar				Puttalam
Personal Liberty	42	128	23	31	94	19	31	120	185	34	30	15	53	805	1423	2228
(a) Torture(Physical and Mental)	5	41	1	1	24	3	1	19	15	1	16	6	8	141	419	560
(b) Degrading Treatment				1	3	2	1		8					15	1	16
(c) Harassment		4	11	6	27	6	10	45		26	7	6	1	149	439	588
(d) Sexual Harassment															8	8
(e)Threats	2	7		2	15	2	3	6	35					72		72
(f)Arbitrary Arrest/Detention	35	76	10	21	22	6	16	43	111	7	7	3	44	401	518	919
(g)Death in Custody			1					2	2					5	8	13
(h)Extra-Judicial Killings									4					4	20	24
(j)Missing Persons*					1			1	1					3	2	5
(k) Prisoners Rights					2			4	9					15	8	23
Other Civil & Political Rights		1		36		1	6	6	1	2				53	24	77
Employment	26	80	92	52	43	3	45	173	120	26	16	9	38	723	1007	1730
Education	4	6	12	15	13	6	57	53	59	7	2		3	237	204	441
State Welfare Services	1	9	1	3	8	2	5	12	13	4	4	2		64	11	75
Infrastructure & Utilities	2		6		5	2	3	10	8		1			37	72	109
Complaints Relating to Voter Registration/ Election(describe)							1	3					2	6	7	13
Complaints about Inaction of Gov. Entities		294														2157

(a)Police	16		41	185	62	17	48	82	49	31	29	4	20	584	683	1267
(b)Other Gov. Authorities	42		11	105	22	2	20	138	40	14	18	4	17	433	163	596
Child Rights				1	4		2		1	1	1			10	1	11
Elders Rights															2	2
Rights of Differently-abled							1	1	1					3	12	15
Language Rights						1		2		2	1	1	1	8	10	18
Migrant Workers' Rights		2	2	4						3				11	3	14
LGBT(Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender) Rights				1	1			3	3					8	62	70
Health Rights							1	1						5	9	14
Land & Property Rights	23	65	45	9	7	11	16	42	31	16	18	10	23	316	267	583
Cultural Rights															3	3
Environmental Rights		5				1	3	5	9	1		1		25	15	40
Administrative Matters			21		4			99	48	7	1		11	191	180	371
Rights of Women							1	1	2					4	2	6
Other Categories (including the complaints not within the mandate)		38	32	11	5	4	1	61	111	8	6	1		278	1246	1524
Referrals to other institutions									12					12		12
Total	156	628	286	453	271	69	241	812	693	156	127	47	168	3813	5406	9219

Source - Website of the HRCSL¹⁰

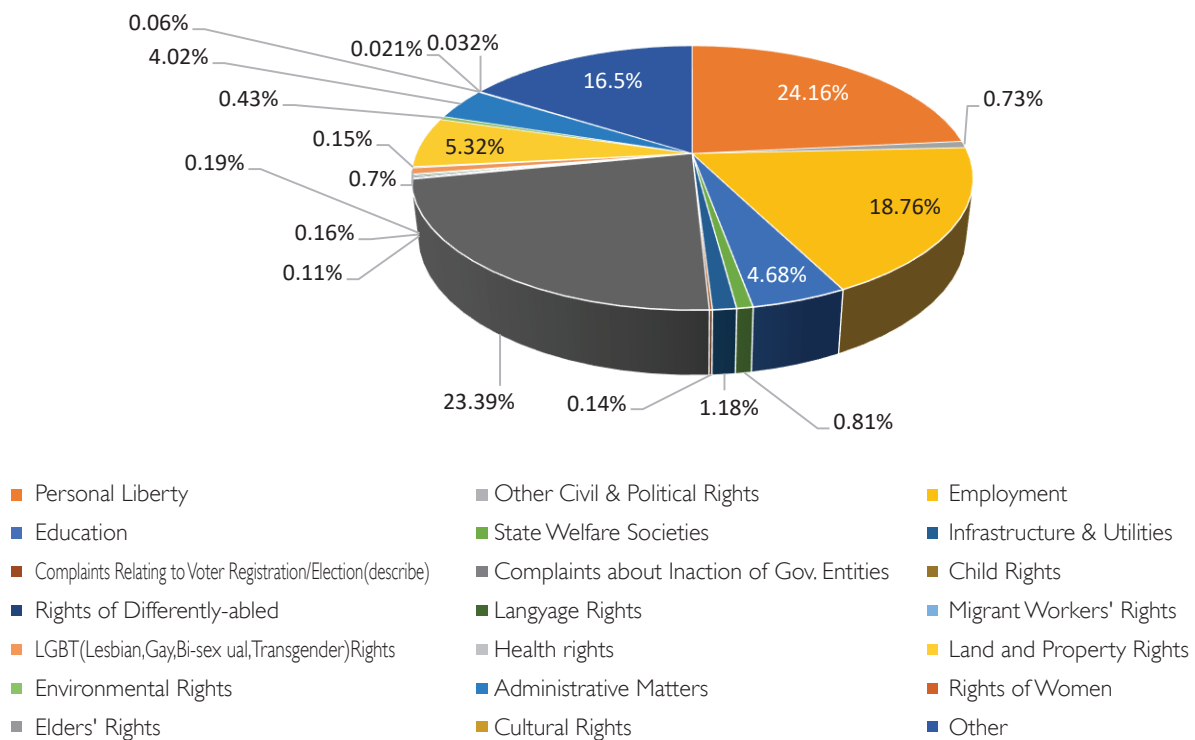
10. <https://www.hrcsl.lk/reports/statistics-of-complaints/?lang=si>

Complaints received by the HRCSL and its regional offices in 2021



It can be observed from the above data that out of the total complaints received, 57% (5,406) were received by the main office. The remaining complaints were distributed as follows: Ampara - 2% (156), Anuradhapura - 7% (628), Badulla - 3% (286), Batticaloa - 5% (453), Jaffna - 3% (271), Killinochchi - 1% (69), Kalmunai - 3% (241), Kandy - 8% (812), Matarara - 7% (693), Trincomalee - 2% (156), Vavuniya - 1% (127), Mannar - 0.5% (47), and Puttalam - 2% (168).

Types of Complaints received by the HRCSL in 2022



The data reveals that the highest number of human rights violations in 2022, totaling 24.16% (2,228), are reported in the field of personal liberties. Within this field, the majority of complaints were related to unlawful arrests and detention, accounting for 9.9% (991) of the total complaints. The main office received the highest number of complaints (518) regarding unlawful arrests and detention, while the Matara regional office received the highest number of such complaints among the regional offices (111).

The second-highest number of complaints, 6.37% (588) of the total, were related to harassment. Among these complaints, the main office received the most (439), and the Kandy regional office received the highest number of such complaints among the regional offices (45).

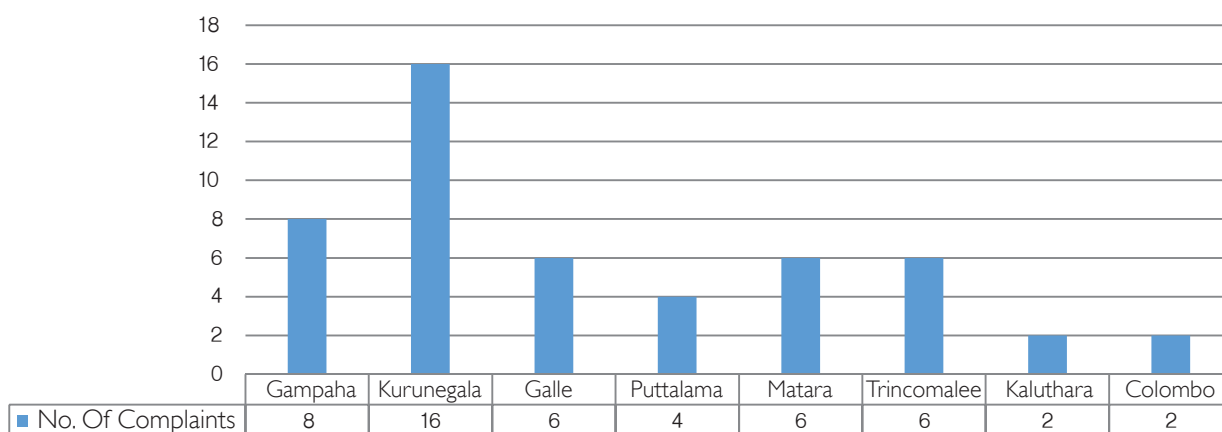
Among other human rights violations, the highest number of complaints, totaling 23.39% (2,157) of the total, were related to the inaction of government entities. In contrast, complaints about other human rights violations, such as child and women's rights, language rights, rights of differently-abled individuals, rights of IDP/returning refugees, and LGBT rights, were received in very small amounts.

However, a significant percentage of the complaints received, totaling 16.5% (1,524) of the total, did not fall under the purview of the commission. The majority of these complaints were received by the main office (1,246), followed by the Matara regional office (111). Among the regional offices, the highest number of complaints in 2022 was received by the Kandy office (812), while the Mannar office received the lowest number of complaints (47).

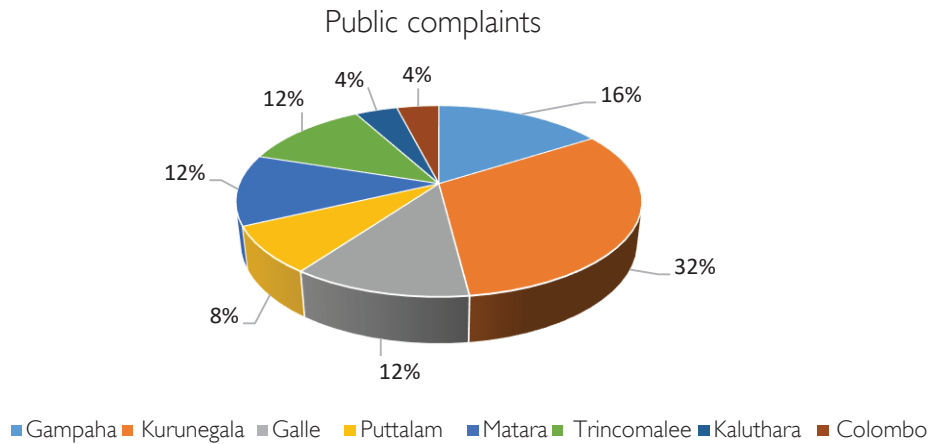
During this period, our human rights centers operated in all regions of the country, actively educating the public on the role and significance of the HRCSL. These centers played a vital role in encouraging and assisting the public to file complaints with the commission against human rights violations that were faced by individuals across the island.

5.3 Analysis of Complaints Submitted to the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka by Human Rights First Aid Centres from May 2022 to April 2023

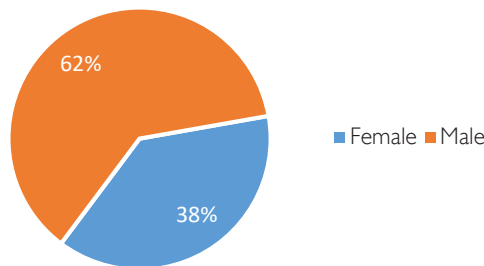
Complaints Submitted to the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka by Human Rights First Aid Centres



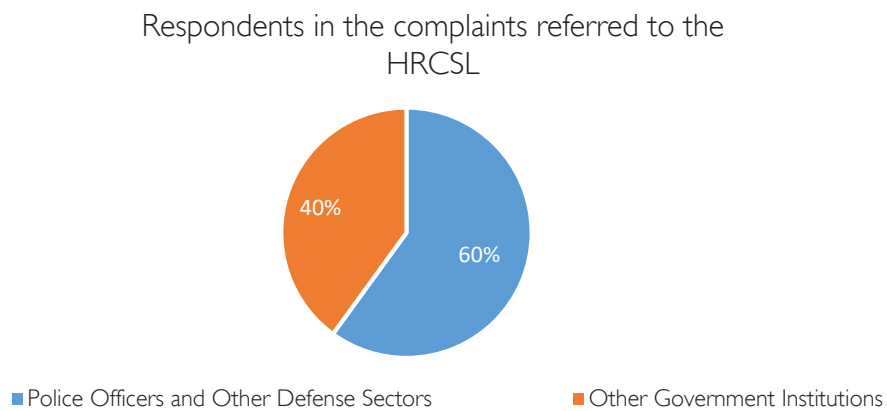
Based on the verified data presented in the above chart, we have identified 50 major complaints from eight districts.



tBased on the analysis of the complaints, the distribution of complaints regarding misdemeanours caused by government executive and administrative bodies resulting in the violation of rights across districts is as follows: Gampaha - 16%, Kurunegala - 32%, Galle - 12%, Puttalam - 8%, Matara- 12%, Trincomalee - 12%, Kalutara - 4% and Colombo - 4%.



When considering the complainants related to these complaints, 62% of them are male while 38% are female.

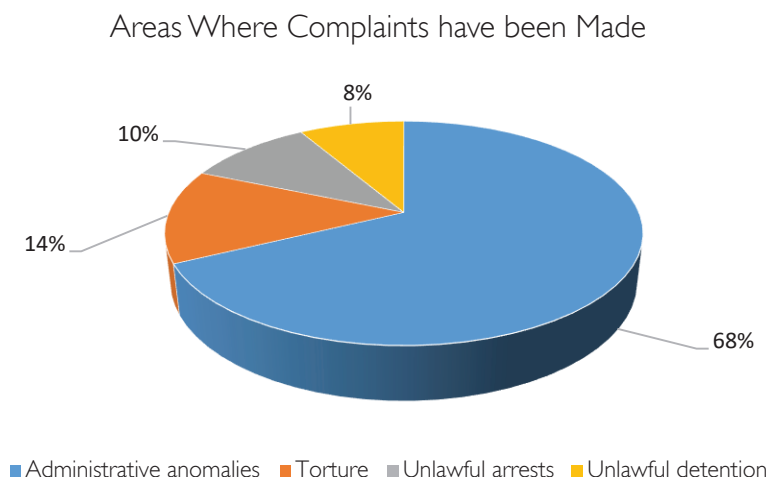


When analyzing the respondent parties in these cases, it was observed that 60% of the time, the respondents are police officers and other defense sectors. Other government officials and institutions account for only 40% of the cases.

Upon further examination, it was observed that these are categorized into four major categories:

- 1) Torture
- 2) Unlawful arrest
- 3) Unlawful detention
- 4) Administrative anomalies

Upon further examination, it could be observed that these complaints are dispersed among the four categories as follows: Administrative anomalies - 68%, Torture - 14%, Unlawful arrest - 10%, and Unlawful detention - 8%.



When considering the above data, administrative anomalies contribute to 68%, which is relatively the highest among the categories. Upon examining the respondent institutions relevant in this regard, it is observed that 50% of these cases are in relation to the Sri Lanka Police. Other government institutions combined only contribute to 50%.

According to the information obtained from the victims, the commission's responses to the complaints can be categorized as follows: For approximately 34% of the complaints, investigations are either underway or the commission is actively looking into them. In about 24% of the cases, parties have been called for investigations. For around 4% of the complaints, the commission has stated that they are beyond its purview. In approximately 1% of the cases, the commission has informed the victims that the investigations are completed. Another 1% of the complaints cannot be further mediated by the commission due to active PR petitions filed in the Supreme Court. Additionally, about 4% of the complaints indicate that the victim parties do not wish to pursue the case any further. This means that approximately 32% of the complaints are still under the commission's consideration and require further action.

Upon analyzing all of the above complaints, it was observed that 14% of the total complaints have received recommendations or had their problems resolved due to the intervention of the Human Rights Commission. However, in the majority of cases, approximately 76% of the complaints, the HRCSL still needs to provide recommendations and further action to address the issues raised by the complainants.

Out of the 50 complaints used in this study, we were able to verify the dates of the commission's mediation for only 38. Among them, it is commendable to note that the commission responded to nearly 63% of the complaints within a month, and it can be assumed that the victims were given the date of registration through mail. This swift response time reflects positively on the commission's efficiency. However, 37% of the complaints did not receive a registration date within a month, indicating that the commission has not yet responded to them.

Recommendations

Regarding the fundamental rights of Sri Lankan citizens, a framework of independent commissions, including the HRCSL and National Police Commission, has been put in place. Additionally, the Supreme Court operates to hear fundamental rights petitions. The establishment of HRCSL can be considered a progressive step for Sri Lanka, as promoting and safeguarding human rights is crucial in every aspect of the country's development. Human rights also play a significant role in determining the eligibility for relief programs like GSP+ and IMF support for third-world developing countries.

In 2022, Sri Lanka experienced a significant year of turmoil, marked by an economic crisis that led to widespread protests on the streets. The government's response to the protests was oppressive, leading to violations of people's rights. In this context, the HRCSL played a crucial role in promptly and commendably intervening to safeguard the rights of the people. The commission remained vigilant about the daily occurrences of human rights violations and took proactive steps to advise the government to refrain from such actions.

When examining the HRCSL's functioning in other human rights violation cases, it became evident that a considerable number of complaints remained uninvestigated by 2022. The delays in investigating these cases were attributed to various catastrophic events that occurred in different periods since 2019, such as the Easter Sunday bombings and the Covid-19 pandemic. These events led to travel restrictions and lockdowns, hindering the commission's ability to conduct investigations efficiently. Additionally, the shortage of officers within the commission further exacerbated the situation, making it challenging to address the growing workload.

However, to address these challenges, the commission has taken proactive measures, including the recruitment of new officers. While diligently working to investigate old cases, they have also made significant strides in fast-tracking current investigations in 2022. This is a commendable progress in the commission's work.

However, there are still some issues with the complaint investigation and recommendation provision procedures within the Human Rights Commission. One notable concern is the lack of communication regarding the dates for the next summons after the initial investigation. Stakeholders are often left uncertain about the next steps, leading to a loss of enthusiasm among the victims of human rights violations. In some cases, months or even years pass without any updates from the commission, causing victims to lose hope and abandon their pursuit of justice. This delay not only impacts the victims but also empowers public officials responsible for the violations, potentially encouraging them to continue their unlawful actions.

To address these weaknesses and regularize the functioning of the HRCSL, we propose the following recommendations:

1. Providing quick relief to the victims by completing the complaint investigations promptly.
2. Establishing an independent investigations unit for complaint investigations would instil confidence and a sense of impartiality about the commission.
3. Enforcing the law on biased officers or officers who disclose details within the commission
4. Making quick visits to places of detention and increasing monitoring of those places.
5. Giving legal effect to the Commission's intervention in arrests made under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and the Emergency Regulations.
6. Establishing a dedicated unit to monitor and follow up on the implementation of provided recommendations
7. By granting legal authority to the recommendations, the Commission would gain the ability to enforce the given recommendations effectively, ensuring that they are implemented as intended. Additionally, this legal empowerment would enable the Commission to take appropriate legal action against those who fail to comply with the recommendations, ensuring accountability for non-compliance with human rights standards and principles.

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4. GANHRI Sub-Committee on Accreditation Report – October 2021. SCA reports - GANHRI

Attachment 01

Human Rights First Aid Centre	Name and the sex of the complainant	Types of the complaints					Respondent	Date of the complaint	Date of registration at the commission and its registration number	Dates of Commission inquiries and information available to the victim	Whether the Commission has conducted inquiries and the current situation that the victim has come to know	Date given if the Commission has given recommendations	Has the victim received any solution or relief as a result of the complaint to the Commission?
		Torture	Extrajudicial Killings	Unlawful Arrests	Unlawful Detention	Administrative anomalies							
01) Gampaha	Deepani Dirukshi Female					X	Ragama Police Station	2022/08/02	2022/08/31 HRC/3363/ 22 Colombo Office	No	No	No	No
02) Gampaha	Lasantha Chaminda Male					X	Ja-Ela Police Station	2022/08/10	2022/09/11 HRC/HO/ 0325/22 Colombo Office	No	No	No	No
03) Gampaha	Padma Manike Female					X	Ragama Police Station	2022/08/16	2022/09/29 HRC/MO/ 1838/22 Colombo Office	No	No	No	No
04) Gampaha	Chithrangie Priyanka Female					X	Labor Office, Narahenpita.	2022/08/16	2022/10/08 HRC/HO/ 1938/22 Colombo Office	No	No	No	No
05) Gampaha	D. C. Danifus Male					X	Kegalle Police Station	2022/11/12	2022/11/25 HRC/HO/ 4657/22 Colombo Office	No	No	No	No

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06) Gampaha	Dharmika Weerawarna Female					2022/11/14	2022/11/25 HRC/2910/ 22 Colombo Office	The victim has been informed that an investigation is underway.	No	No	No
07) Gampaha	Nirupa Subhashinie Female					2022/10/02	2022/10/30 HRC/MO/ 5327/ 22 Colombo Office	No	No	No	No
08) Gampaha	Chandrika Priyanthi Female					2022/10/06	2022/11/01 HRC/ 118/ 4098/22 Colombo Office	No	No	No	No
09) Kurunegala	Renuka Malkanthi Female					2022/12/06	2022/12/20 HRC/110/ 5087/22 Colombo Office	The commission has informed the victim by telephone on 01/11/2023 that the relevant investigations are being conducted.	Accordingly, Polgahawela Police Station, the respondent party, has been informed that they should come to the commission and give statements before 25/01/2023.	No	No
10) Kurunegala	Shanthy Hemalatha Female					2023/02/21	2023/03/07 HRC/HO/ 1015/23 Colombo Office	No	No	No	The investigation conducted by the Ministry of Education has resolved the victim's problem.

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17) Kurunegala	W. A. Gemini Jayasuriya Male					2022/10/11	2022/11/18 HRC/HO/4409/ 22 Colombo Office	The victim has been informed that an investigation is underway.	The victim has been informed that an investigation is underway.	No	No
18) Kurunegala	K. S. Premadasa Male					2022/10/17	-	"The commission has informed them that this complaint is not relevant. Again a complaint has been forwarded in this regard."	No	No	No
19) Kurunegala	H. M. D. K. B. Pahalagama Male					2022/10/17	2022/10/26 HRC/HO/ 4053/22 Colombo Office	The victim has been informed that an investigation is underway.	The victim has been informed that an investigation is underway.	No	No
20) Kurunegala	M. P. D. Amaratunga Male					2022/10/25	2022/11/07 HRC/HO/ 4195/22 Colombo Office	The victim has been informed that an investigation is underway.	The victim has been informed that an investigation is underway.	No	No
21) Kurunegala	H. M. E. Chathurani Dasanayake Female					2023/01/10	2023/02/08 HRC/HO/ 321/23 Colombo Office	The victim has been informed that an investigation is underway.	The victim has been informed that an investigation is underway.	No	No
22) Kurunegala	H. M. Heenmanike Female					2023/01/27	2023/02/15 HRC/HO/ 573/ 23 Colombo Office	The victim has been informed that an investigation is underway.	The victim has been informed that an investigation is underway.	No	No
23) Kurunegala	H. M. Sarath Vipula Bandara Male					2023/02/01	2023/03/08 HRC/HO/ 996/23 Colombo Office	The victim has been informed that an investigation is underway.	The victim has been informed that an investigation is underway.	No	No

24) Kurunegala	R. D. Chandana Kumara Jayalath Male					Ridigama Divisional Secretariat	2022/10/11	2022/11/23 HRC/HO/ 4590/22 Colombo Office	The victim was informed that the investigation was completed.	The victim was informed that the investigation was completed.	No	No
25) Galle	Alawattage Thiakarathne Male					Akmimana Police Station	2022/04/27	2022/05/17 HRC/MT/ 171/22V Matara Office	No	No	No	No
26) Galle	U. L. Amila Rowan Udayanga Male			X	X	Pitigala Police Station	2022/11/23	HRC/ MT/333/22/G Matara Office	For the investigation related to the complaint, on 12.05.2023, they were called to the Matara Regional Office and their statements were recorded.	The victim has been informed that an investigation is underway.	No	No
27) Galle	Haputantrige Gayan Lasantha Male				X	Department of Education	2022/08/19	-	There has been no response from the Human Rights Commission. However, that problem has been resolved now.	No	No	No
28) Galle	Suduwa Hewage Samantha Puspakumara Male				X	Department of Education	2022/06/01	-	Responses have been received from the Human Rights Commission but the issue has not been resolved. It has been informed that the children have been admitted according to the relevant circular.	No	No	No
29) Galle	Hiniduma Liyanage Chamari Sandarekha Female				X	Department of Education	2022/05/09	-	Responses have been received from the Human Rights Commission, but the problem has been resolved by an alternative method.	No	No	No

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30) Galle	Ramani Siriylatha Female	X				2022/08/18	2022/10/04 HRC/ HO/3429/22	19/05/2023 – Matara 08/06/2023 – Colombo	As of now, it has been called for investigations twice.	No	No	No
31) Puttiam	Renuka Nimali Female				X	2021/10/25	2022/01/18 HRC/HO/ 2756/21 Puttiam Office	2022/08/30	Investigations have been conducted.	No	No	Settlement reached
32) Puttiam	Randu Chandimal Male				X	2022/08/12	-	Complaint was presented to the Puttiam Human Rights Office but the complaint has not been accepted.	No	No	No	No
33) Puttiam	Shanika Kumari Somaratne Female				X	2022/09/18	-	After complaints to the Human Rights Office, they were called to the Mundalama Police Station for investigations.	No	No	No	No
34) Puttiam	A. L. D. Shelton Nawaratne Male				X	2022/10/22	-	Not called for investigation. Only the other party has been consulted.	No	No	No	No
35) Deniyaya	Sirisena Hagoda Male			X		2022/05/12	2022/07/22 HRC/ MT/344/22/V Matara Office	It is further informed that since it is revealed that cases have been filed against the complainants under the support and protection of crime victims and witnesses, it cannot be considered that there has been a violation of fundamental rights and the proceedings will be closed and the commission cannot intervene in the work of obtaining bail.	No	No	No	No

36) Matara	Gayan Shammie Chandradasa Mahagammulle Gamage Male				2022/07/15	No response from the victim.	2022/07/26	2022/09/15 HRC/HO/ 2968/22 Colombo Office	No response from the victim.	No response from the victim.	No response from the victim.	No response from the victim.
37) Matara	Ronald Jayawardena Male				2022/07/26	Imaduwa Police Station	2022/07/26	2022/09/15 HRC/HO/ 2968/22 Colombo Office	Investigations have been conducted	No	No	No
38) Matara	Nishantha Saman Kumara Male				2022/08/23	Imaduwa Police Station	2022/08/23	2022/12/19 HRC/HO/ 3918/22/G Colombo Office	No	No	No	No
39) Matara	Bethmi Rukeshiya Silva Female				2022/09/05	Gandara Police Station	2022/09/05	2022/09/06 HRC/MTR/ 329/22/G Matara Office	In the letter issued on 09/06/2022, it has been informed that the complaint has been registered and the attention of the commission has been directed to it.	No	No	No
40) Matara	Hansaka Deshan Male				2022/10/28	Thihagoda Police Station	2022/10/28	23/11/2022 HRC/ MTR/428/22/V	The victim has been informed that an investigation is underway.	The victim has been informed that an investigation is underway.	No	No
41) Trincomalee	Ranjith Gunasekara Male				2022/09/12	Agbopura Police Station, Kantale	2022/09/12	2022/09/13 HRC/TRM/ 86/2022 Trincomalee Office	The victim has been informed that an investigation is underway.	The victim has been informed that an investigation is underway.	No	The officials responsible for the incident have been transferred.

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42) Trincomalee	M. G. Shiroma					2022/06/25	2022/07/05 HRC/TRM/ 32/2022 Trincomalee Office	Investigations have been conducted.	Investigations have been conducted.	No	The victim had paid off the loan from LOLC, but the related land security had not been released by LOLC. According to the complaint made to the Human Rights Commission, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka has intervened and released the relevant land deed to the victim.
43) Trincomalee	Suranga Rupasinghe Male					2022/06/25	2022/10/04 HRC/2982/ 22 Trincomalee Office	The victim was informed by a letter dated 04/10/2022 that investigations are being carried out by the Commission.	The victim was informed by a letter dated 04/10/2022 that investigations are being carried out by the Commission.	It has been recommended to the pradeshiya Sabha to provide a ferry bridge to llangathurai village of Verugal local council.	It has been recommended to the pradeshiya Sabha to provide a ferry bridge to llangathurai village of Verugal local council. Hence the issue has been resolved.
44) Trincomalee	S. Shanmugapriya Female					2022/09/06	2022/09/16 HRC/TRM/ 91/2022 Trincomalee Office		The victim was summoned to the Trincomalee office on 21/09/2022 and her statement was recorded.	No	The pressure exerted by the police intelligence agencies has stopped.

45) Trincomalee	L.G.V.C. Piyadasa Male					2022/11/03	No response from the victim	No response from the victim	No response from the victim	No response from the victim	No response from the victim	No response from the victim
46) Trincomalee	Seneviratne Banda Male					2021/12/14	2022/01/21 HRC/HO/ 2888/21 Trincomalee Office	2022/03/08 2022/10/13	The victim has been informed that an investigation is underway.	No	No	The victim has learned that the police officers responsible for the incident have been transferred to Batticaloa Police Station.
47) Kalutara	Ramanathan Kulasekaran Male					-	2022/10/25 HRC/ HO/4068/22	2023/05/08	Investigations are ongoing.	No	No	No
48) Kalutara	R.G.R.D Rajapaksa					2022/10/30	2022/11/03 HRC/5137/22	21/06/2022	Investigations are ongoing.	No	No	No
49) Colombo	Don Nuwan Maduranga Male					2023/03/04	2023/03/07 HRC/ HO/1052/23	-	Investigations are ongoing.	No	No	No
50) Colombo	W.A.Ajith Kumara Male					2022/08/30	Called for investigation. 2022/09/01 HRC/ HO/3056/22	-	Investigations are ongoing.	No	No	No



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