AWAW Newsletter 2015

AWAW established Friends of AWAW in New York City and will open its office on 1st January 2016.

- Chair of AWAW participated for two discussions with the Hon. Prime minister and election commissioner on securing a quota for women in politics.
- AWAW was instrumental in drafting the manifesto for women in 2015 January presidential election and 2015 August General election.
- Women taking leadership for a shared future, Felicitation for women politicians of Sri Lanka.
- “Women’s Role in Post war Reconciliation- from Rhetoric to Action”
- “Promoting Women’s Political participation”
- “Women in Local Governance”
- “Sri Lankan Mobilized to achieve reconciliation transmission”

“Bringing women together across the divide”

Visaka Dharmadasa
Chair
AWAW

Association of War Affected Women.

Mission

Work towards strengthening democracy, women’s advancement and equal participation in order to achieve sustainable development and permanent peace in Sri Lanka.

Vision

Peaceful prosperous Sri Lanka where all its peoples are living with dignity enjoying equal rights.
Women taking leadership for a shared future, Felicitation for women politicians of Sri Lanka

On 27th of January at Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, Colombo 07 from 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Women Ministers were felicitated by AWAW at SLFI on 27th January 2015. Her Excellency President Chandrika Kumaratunga graced the occasion as the chief guest, Ministers and members of Parliament, Ambassadors, Members of the provincial councils and civil society participated.
Women’s Role in Post War Reconciliation-
From Rhetoric to Action

Association of War Affected Women together with the Cross Party Senior Women Politicians Coalition hosted the seminar, “Women’s role in post war reconciliation – from rhetoric to action” to mark the International Women’s Day 2015 on April 2nd at BMICH with the participation of 50 guests from the political arena academia and the civil society.

The seminar where Opening remarks: were made by Hon. Madam Rosy Senanayake, State Minister for Ministry of Children’s Affairs and Mr. Tom Malinowski, Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor of USA, consisted of two key note speeches and two panel discussions, where the 1st panel brought in the ground realities and the second panel formulated them into policy, while there were inputs from the floor. Reflections from Jaffna memorandum were also presented at the end of the seminar. As the final outcome of this event a policy brief was developed from the seminar proceedings.

AWAW drafted a policy brief: “Embracing a Dual Opportunity: Civil Society Submission to the Office for National Unity”.
Promoting Women’s Political Participation

An UN Women partner project with the funding from Royal Norwegian Government.

Conduct one advocacy meeting each with 8 political parties in Colombo to advocate for a 33% quota for women in elected office

- AWAW conducted four district workshops for students from four different universities, to introduce women’s political participation in Sri Lanka and Political history of women in Sri Lanka and to discuss the current situation and international experience.

- AWAW met heads of political parties to discuss women’s political participation and requested them to nominate more women from their respective political parties.

AWAW promoted women’s political participation through a campaign, calling people to “vote for women and bring victory to the country”
AWAW conducted, half day meetings to familiarize the University students and gain their support on Vote for women campaign

AWAW held a workshop for senior women politicians and trade union leaders on “Gender sensitive policy drafting and implementation”, the first to be held in the country with nontraditional partners.
Women in Local Governance

SFCG partner project with US government funding

AWAW conducted two three day workshops on 16th, 17th and 18th of September 2015, on Media and on 18th 19th 20th of December on “Local government Act, Election law and the function of local government bodies” for women from three districts who will run for local government offices.

Sri Lankan Mobilized to Achieve Reconciliation Transmission
AWAW partner project with Search for Common Ground and RpR of Mannar.

- AWAW conducted a two day Meeting to establish district level Advisory groups and youth leaders group.

- AWAW conducted three day residential training, to enhance the leadership and trust building skills of the youth.

- AWAW participated in 2015 Presidential and parliamentary Election monitoring.

- Chair of AWAW attended the meeting of the UN women civil society advisory Group.
- Chair of AWAW participated in Asia Pacific Regional consultation for the Global study on UNSCR 1325, Kathmandu Nepal on 11th - 13th February

Meeting Executive Director of UN Women with Minister of Women’s Affairs

British High Commissioner’s visit to AWAW office on 30th April

- with US Secretary of state Hon. John Kerry
- German Ambassador’s visit to AWAW office on 16th May 2015
- Chair of AWAW participated in “Global consultation: Candid voices from the field: obstacles to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women peace and security”, at the Hague, from 29th June to 2nd August
- Chair of AWAW participated in a brain storming session on CVE at Brussels from 25th to 30th
- Was the resource person for NPC voter education workshop in Hatton on 01st August
Chair of AWAW participated in ICAN’s 4th Annual MENA/Asia regional women’s rights, Peace and security forum challenging extremism and Militarism, Istanbul from 11th November to 16th November.

- Chair of AWAW participated in Gender and Militarism in Asia linking regional analysis to local practices- Philippines from 07th December to 08th December.

- Chair of AWAW participated in Global civil society dialogue of UN women- New York from 22th November to 24th November 2015.
The Association of War Affected Women and Friends of AWAW wish
A Merry Christmas and A Very Prosperous and Peaceful New Year

We remember with deep gratitude our donors and partners, Their generous support has made our journey possible, a very special thanks to Madam Abigail Disney for her kindness towards us at all times.