ASSOCIATION OF WAR AFFECTED WOMEN

VISION
Peaceful Prosperous Sri Lanka where all its people are living with dignity enjoying equal rights.

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

In this issue
- The Road to Reconciliation - Advocacy Campaign “Achieving Sustainable Development Goals through nonviolence”
- Strengthening good governance and Democracy - Women Taking leadership
- National Peace Table.
- Other highlights of the year
- Global Involvements

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The Road to Reconciliation

Over 2018, AWAW carried out several activities on gendered transitional justice and reconciliation processes. The advocacy campaign “Achieving Sustainable Development Goals through Non-Violence” was carried out to make the public aware of the importance of working towards a shared future where all of us can live in harmony together. We believed that it is important to inform people that it is only by coming together we can achieve development.

Activities in the campaign

- Train journey from Colombo to Jaffna with the exhibition
- 5 Public meetings in selected 5 towns in the Island (In Colombo, Jaffna, Anuradhapura, Hambantota and Kandy)
- Exhibition:
  - i) A Digital Exhibition of the 2 world wars
  - ii) Lesson to learn from Japan’s recovery
  - iii) Quotes from Religious leaders
  - iv) Quotes from renowned personalities
  - v) A Digital exhibition of the importance of the “TREE”
- Street Drama with the theme of “Achieving Sustainable Development Goals through Non-Violence”
- Distribution of plants
- Distribution of School Exercise books to school children with the cover printed with the slogan “Achieving Sustainable Development Goals through Non-Violence”
- Distribution of Wall calendars printed with the slogan
- Distribution of Pocket calendars printed with the slogan
- Releasing gas balloons
- An official Facebook page for the campaign.
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Hatred never ceases through hatred, but through love alone they cease.
-Lord Buddha-

Do you know what is better than charity, fasting & prayer?
It is keeping peace & good relations with people as quarrels & bad feelings destroy mankind.
-Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)-

“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”
-Lord Jesus Christ-

Whatever has happened has happened. Whoever is happy, should retain that happiness. And whoever is sad, should be comforted.
-Watson-

Change is the law of Nature.
-The Sage-
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The Earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the Earth. All things are connected like the blood that unites us all. Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.

-Chief Seattle

Trees have furnished us with two life essentials

FOOD & OXYGEN

"If we have no peace, It is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other"
-Mother Teresa

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The Association of War Affected Women in partnership with Global Communities proposed the implementation of the project “Strengthening Good Governance and Democracy: Women Taking Leadership” in Sri Lanka in key aim of reinforcing cooperative relationships across divides and to increase the participation of women in peace and reconciliation processes.

Under this project we will be embarking on an advocacy campaign in the coming year under the below slogan

“We are together for our country”

“I can promise you that women working together - linked, informed and educated can bring peace and prosperity to this forsaken planet”

-Isabelle Allende-
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Activity 1 - 08 1-day trainings on Advocacy and Social Cohesion
Activity 2 - Two Day Networking Workshop for SMART75 members

Activity 3 - 2 Two-day In-depth trainings on Gender Sensitive Transitional Justice
Sponsored by Peace Women Across the Globe (PWAG), AWAW successfully held a National Peace Table titled “Women do have a voice – The world should listen to it” on Saturday 23rd of November 2019 at Ivy Room of Cinnamon Grand Hotel, Colombo from 2.00 p.m. to 06.00 p.m.

The main aim of the event was to enrich the Sri Lankan Reconciliation process by Local and International experience for women to play a central role of the process.
AWAW- ICAN- Fact finding mission

From 24th-30th July 2019 AWAW together with International Civil Society Action Network carried out a fact-finding mission in selected districts in Sri Lanka in the aftermath of Easter Sunday Bombing. Batticaloa, Mannar, Kandy, and Colombo districts were visited through the mission.

UKRI GCRF Gender, Justice and Security Hub

AWAW is currently initiating a project funded by the London School of Economics. The scope of the project is to build Social harmony through series of activities on women’s economic empowerment as well their awareness of new & emerging threats identified in accordance with the ground situation and political environment.

“Peace comes from within, do not seek it without”

-Lord Buddha-
Other highlights of the year

Interactive meeting with 20 Japanese student delegates from the faculty of Law of Hosei University, Japan - 11th of February 2019

Distribution of books printed with all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s) to Doomabagasthalaawe Maha Vidyalaya - On 11th July 2019
Our global Involvements

Third Peacekeeping Ministerial Preparatory Meeting on Women, Peace and Security.
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
28-29 January 2019

Winner for Cross border initiatives- Association of War Affected Women.

Winner for Untold Stories - Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa. - N -Peace Awards –5th March 2019
Chairperson of AWAW Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa was invited to speak at the reception hosted by HRH The Countess of Wessex to celebrate International Women’s Day in Buckingham Palace on 8th March 2019.
Commission on the Status of women 11th - 22nd March 2019

Centrality of Gender Equality to National Cohesion and Sustainable Peacebuilding - 12th March 2019

The Role of Parliaments as Partners in Women, Peace and Security - 14th March 2019

Reception to celebrate Women Mediators across the Commonwealth on the occasion of Commonwealth Day - 15th March 2019

Chair of AWAW Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa was interviewed by UK Prime Minister’s Special Representative for Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, Hon. Lord (Tariq) Ahmad

Conference in preparation for HLPF 2019: “Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies: SDG 16 implementation and the path towards leaving no one behind – 27th – 29th May 2019 in Rome, Italy
Peer to peer Exchange Forum – Women Mediators Across the Common wealth - Northern Ireland- 13th – 19th August 2019

AWAW Chairperson Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa with Deputy Mayor of Mid and East Antrim, Northern Ireland Cll. Beth Adger
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International Civil Society Action Network - 8th Annual Forum- Oslo, Norway, 4th – 8th November 2019

HRH Countess of Wessex attending all network meeting of Women Mediators Across the Commonwealth- 25\textsuperscript{th} November 2019

Few more captures....

AWAW Chair with the Former President of Timor leste

With Her Excellency the US Ambassador Ms. Alaina B. Teplits

AWAW Chair was invited to the opening ceremony of a fish market sponsored by SCORE in Monaragala. The project was initiated and implemented by women AWAW had trained under the SCORE Project in 2018
WE THANK ALL OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS FOR A SUCCESSFUL AND PRODUCTIVE YEAR

USA, Canada,

ICAN

Peace Women Across the Globe

Global Communities

AWAW Team wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful Prosperous New Year