ANNUAL REPORT 2020

ASSOCIATION OF WAR AFFECTED WOMEN

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ASSOCIATION OF WAR AFFECTED WOMEN

The Association of War Affected Women (AWAW) was established in the year 2000 to create a space for war affected women, specifically mothers and wives, of those who are missing to come together across the divide to work for peace. Today, AWAW operates at the national and international level while continuing to work towards sustainable peace, strengthening democracy and supporting the advancement and participation of women in the social and political aspects of Sri Lanka.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of AWAW:

i. To achieve sustainable peace in Sri Lanka through socio-economic development with the active participation of war-affected women.

ii. Women's advancement, empowerment, development and participation.

VISION

Peaceful prosperous Sri Lanka where all its peoples 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.
AWAW’S WORK

Social Cohesion and Reconciliation (SCORE) Activity - Strengthening Good Governance and Democracy: Women Taking Leadership
A partnership with Global Communities with USAID funding

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. The project was implemented through working towards the advancement of women of all ages and all strata of life including women with special needs as well as women who are indigenous and living in rural as well urban areas. Also women were trained on women peace and security (WPS) agenda enabling them to take UNSCR 1325 to the grassroots so that they were able to mitigate conflicts at the community level and earn respect from the local population. They were able to enhance their ability to be leaders at various level addressing issues which divides population and enables achieving sustainable peace through the implementation of a comprehensive reconciliation process where people of all ethnic and religious divides will live in harmony.

Activities that were carried out under this project in the year 2020 are;
- Two day in depth training on Building Social Harmony through Governance and Rights took place on 3rd & 4th January 2020 at Girithale Hotel, Polonnaruwa with 27 participants.
• Two day in depth training on Women’s Rights towards Social Cohesion & Reconciliation took place on 23rd & 24th January 2020 with 38 participants and 31st January & 1st February 2020 at Riverdale Hotel, Kandy with 24 participants.

• Four three day learning exchange visits

Exchange visit to Mullaitivu
Seven venues and organizations were visited and discussions were carried out during the Mullaitivu learning exchange visit which took place on the 27th, 28th & 29th of February 2020. Women’s organizations namely, ‘Mahila’ Women’s Organization and ‘Olirum Walvu’ organization, production centers ‘Sathu Star Products’ and ‘Queen Products’ were visited during this visit while two more meetings were held at Grama Niladhari Division 91 of Kallappadu North and Mul 90 – Kallappadu South. Discussions carried out were dedicated to surfacing economic, social and other problems faced by the women in these areas. Valuable guidance and recommendations were given by the participants of Association of War Affected Women and Global Communities organization during this visit, which shed light on a number of key issues.
Exchange visit to Kilinochchi

While we were going to Kilinochchi on the 11th our bus driver got a call that a tourist guild was infected of Covid 19 immediately we stopped and got turmeric powder and made a solution with water as well we plucked some margosa leaves to keep in the bus as these are proven disinfectants. It was an exciting trip because we were unsure that the participants would get their buses to go back once we reach Kandy. Some organizations & production centers were visited and discussions were carried out during the Kilinochchi exchange visit which took place on the 11th, 12th & 13th of March 2020. Women’s organizations namely, ‘Mahasakthy’ Women’s Organization, ‘Gangei Women’s Association, Ilanthalir Self Service Association, Nagathambiran Women Association and few other societies were visited during this visit.

Exchange visit to Galle

The Learning Exchange to the District of Galle took place on the 18th, 19th & 20th of June 2020, was very significant not only to the visitors but also to the women and men they met. One such place was the Waihena and Kumbalwela Govi kantha meeting where Hon. Local government member of Mulatiew, Ms. Suganthi speaking to more than 250 women, as well the meeting at the Habaraduwa Pradeshiya Sabha where the Chairperson and councilors were present to discuss the North South relationships, and the necessity of people to people dialogue’s, in building social cohesion. They also discussed various issues pertinent to the local governance, and of future collaboration between Mulatiew and Habaraduwa local government bodies. Several factories, organizations and women’s groups were visited and discussions were carried out during the visit. These discussions were mutually beneficial to women who visited as well women who hosted them, since they could share and learn from each other, Also it gave the SMART 75 women of south the training of organizing such learning exchanges. Valuable guidance and recommendations were given by the participants during this visit, which shed light on a number of key issues. The most significant is the warm welcome and the acceptance that women and men of Galle District extended to the women of the North and East as well elsewhere of the country.
Exchange Visit to Matara
The Learning Exchange visit to Matara which took place on the 25th, 26th & 27th of June 2020, was significant in couple of ways, It also enabled the women to visit the Office on the Missing Persons, as well Prominent Political families, where many a southern politicians were groomed, Historical mansions where Gajaman Nona got medical treatment, handicraft centers, factories as well women's groups. We were also very fortunate to visit a place up in the mountains and waterfalls which was a big surprise because normally when one think of Matara we only think of the ocean. Discussions carried out were on the situation, the commonalities as well the difference between the areas, issues of the fisher folk, the farmers and the areas where people can come together to build social harmony was discussed and future collaborations were discussed. Valuable guidance and recommendations were given by the participants which shed light on a number of key issues. The participants were touched by Madam Prema Dickson Hendavitharana's hospitality, she opened her doors very wide to the visitors and promised to work together. Also the meeting at the Office on Missing Persons were very informative.
Summary of issues

A significant notice was that small scale manufacture which is done mainly by women are finding it more and more difficult due to the large scale production which grab their markets with cheap food since machinery is used and the production is more, also some crafts such as weaving is mainly done by older women the young opt to keep away from those traditional crafts. Another thing which was noticed was the significant recovery from the Tsunami and also diversity of the area where mountains as well the coast where all vegetation grew in the fertile soil because both these districts were close to the Sinharaja rainforest. One area that was discussed was the Covid19 situation and the impact on tourism and the unemployment created there upon.

The summary of issues identified during the visit to Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi, Galle & Matara as follows

Economic

- Lack of market opportunities and resources
- Lack of funds
- Lack of availability of training programmes to increase knowledge and sharpen work skills
- Lack of governmental support for cultivation purposes
- Use of prohibited fishing equipment and illegal fishing techniques in the surrounding seas resulting in a decreased harvest to small scale fishermen in the area
- Lack of availability of employment opportunities in the area has put single mothers in a difficult situation when it comes to child care
- Lack of coordination with the market place for some products.
- Lack of market opportunities and resources
- Lack of funds
- Lack of availability of training programmes to increase knowledge and sharpen work skills
- Lack of governmental support for cultivation
- Use of prohibited fishing equipment and illegal fishing techniques in the surrounding seas resulting in a decreased harvest to small scale fishermen in the area
- Lack of coordination with the market place for some products.
- Lack of a Economic center such as Dambulla also has issues of selling the products,
- Cultivation of Palm trees instead of Rubber is a major issue where water is concern
- Lack of factories such as to make the final product of Rubber is a big issue because the industry is suffering.

Social & other

- Losing land previously owned by them in the resettlement process
- Young persons of the area lack exposure due to parental restrictions to go outstations
- The women of the area, widows and single mothers do not feel safe travelling outstations for employment opportunities
• Women above 40 years do not get any employment opportunities. We have noticed many elderly women with no work since there are no scheme to use the contribution that elder women can give to the enhancement of the family economy.
• Lack of knowledge & awareness on harmfulness of dangerous drug usage
• Poverty has made children reluctant to go to school.
• In some areas the children are the sole breadwinners.
• Lack of knowledge & awareness on harmfulness of dangerous drug usage
• Tourism though bring income it also destroy the traditional values
• Young people find employment in driving three wheelers instead of engraining in agriculture
• Highway has opened up the communication and this is seen as a very positive aspect

Women’s organizations in the area provide valuable support to the women in the area in numerous ways which help them level up their business ventures as well as get peer support. They provide safe and promising environments to especially widows and single mothers as they take into account their special needs. It is also commendable that some of the organizations have made counselling support available to anyone who may be lingering from aftermaths of the war or other issues. Nevertheless, the lack of resources or market opportunities has made them vulnerable to being overshadowed by market giants. Some of their issues could be combatted by reaching out to the relevant government personnel and government allocated funds but it was uncovered during these discussions that that they were unaware of most of it.

The lack of learning opportunities or training programs to sharpen work skills is a huge void and moreover their reluctance to go outstation to reach for this knowledge is a further barrier in this process. Reluctance stems from lack of exposure and financial troubles, among other reasons.

**Recommendations**

• A mechanism to exchange products of these areas with those of the rest of the country will be able to help bridge the existing market gap.
• Establishing a market for products such as tea which cannot be produced in the North will give a better bargain in the trade to producers in these areas.
• Women can get together and form a market where they can sell products of their own making. Sending products to ‘Good Market’ could be a possible solution to the current lack of market opportunities in the area.
• It was identified that public transportation can be used to readily transport goods to other parts of the country. Thus transportation will not be a barrier to pursue business ventures in the area.
• As a long term plan, factories that are connected with industries that are peculiar to the area could provide employment opportunities to people in the area. Eg- Ice factories connected to the fishing industry.
• There had been coir and garment factories previously operating in the area that was shut down and reestablishing similar industries in the area was identified as an ideal solution for the security concerns and child care problems as far as women and single mothers are concerned.
• Minimal knowledge about the functions exercised by government institutions was identified as one of the key causes for the complications faced. Reaching out to government officials for support was thus highly recommended to many of the queries that were put forth as there were mechanisms already designed by the government and functioning that could be made use of, which they were not fully aware about. For instance, the lack of knowledge about incentives provided by the government and revolving debt facilities available has led to an increased encroachment of villages by private lending institutions. These private lending institutions tend to collect a daily interest from the debtors. The cumulative result of these acts operated to the detriment of the women who were the subject of the discussion.

• Lack of knowledge about government allocate funds was identified as a main cause for lack of funds among them. Advice was given to take access to fund allocated for women by provincial councils by submitting a proposal of the venture to the relevant provincial council.

• Meeting the Mayor on the day of the week opened for the public was recommended in order to inform any other problem that may spring up. In addition, these problems were advised to be referred to the responsible members of the provincial council.

• Children in these areas come from low income families and therefore a suggestion was placed to request manufacturers of school items to provide their generous support to these children through donations.

• Proper transport service for school children.

• Increasing facilities in rural schools.

• Introducing the new technology

• Support them to market their products in the international market

• Provide more information about banking systems

• Make them participate in the trainings on self-employment and home gardening provided by the provincial councils and other government institutions

• Innovative and attractive packaging of cinnamon and other spices as well fruit and vegetable processing will open new markets and employment.

• Conserving the environment using coir instead of cement will be a long term benefit for the area.

• Employment in coir production and fish canning can bridge the gap of lack of tourism

• Establishing a market for products such as tea which cannot be produced in the North will give a better bargain in the trade to producers in these areas.

• Women can get together and form a market where they can sell products of their own making. Sending products to ‘Good Market’ could be a possible solution as well an economic center such as Dambulla to the current lack of market opportunities in the area.

• It was identified that public transportation such as buses and train can be used to readily transport goods to other parts of the country. Thus transportation will not be a barrier to pursue business ventures in the area.

• As a long term plan, factories that are connected with industries that are peculiar to the area could provide employment opportunities to people in the area. Eg- Ice factories connected to the fishing industry, and also manufacturing factories such as rubber, coir as well fish canning can be a solution long term for youth of the area.

• Agriculture training for women through Gannoruwa Agriculture Institute.
• Advocacy Campaign “WE STAND UNITED FOR OUR COUNTRY”

As Women Leaders of all faiths, ethnicities, demographics and political parties and streams of a country which has gone through a 30 year long armed conflict, Tsunami, Easter Sunday Bombing and currently COVID – 19 Pandemic the women came together to stand united for the country. Aforesaid Women of SMART 75 came up with a logo and the slogan to showcase the unity among diversity. This campaign is very special since it was held not only under a global pandemic but a general election where the women were from diverse political parties and also campaign managers of former minsters and individuals who were bitterly fighting an election. Amidst all this they were able to hold 25 advocacy campaign in all districts of the country reaching more than 20000 Women and Men with 11000 stickers for three wheelers and other vehicles, 5000 cloth bags with the logo and 2500 ladies umbrellas, 1000 Men’s umbrellas, 1500 mugs with the logo. From very remote areas of the country. We also distributed pamphlets on preventing violence against girl child.

The impact of this campaign is way beyond our expectation since people came to the streets to paste stickers and as well the slogan was repeated by the three wheel drivers since it rhymed as well had a deep meaning, a call to the nation to unite. We also have notices the women coming forward to see that essential food and medicine is delivered to the door steps of the locked down areas as well they use their smart phones not only to disseminate health guidelines but also to mitigate hate speech. Up to this day the women who are from diverse political parties are together and not only they but bringing their constituencies together. We see the stickers in the three wheelers and as well women and men with the umbrellas on the streets displaying the call to Stand United for the country.

The slogan was finalized and translated;

We stand united for our country

First draft of the slogan and the images to be used in the logo
Advocacy Planning Meeting was held on 29th June 2020 at Riverdale Hotel Kandy.

Advocacy Campaign – WE STAND UNITED FOR OUR COUNTRY

GOAL: Comprehensive development through attitudinal change

OBJECTIVES:
To make the General public aware of the benefits of being united and promoting Social Cohesion. Walk the journey to prosperity together as one.
25 small gatherings in selected towns in the island (Kandy, Anuradhapura, Jaffna, Paranathan Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Mannar, Vavuniya, Polonnaruwa, Batticaloa, Galle, Puttalam, Kurunegala, Mawarala, Matara, Matale, Nuwara Eliya, Hatton, Kegalle, Ratnapura, Badulla, Mahiyanganaya, Trincomalee, Buttala, Hambantota & Ampara) Apart from the 25 small gatherings, women also are carrying out sticker pasting campaigns in their respective towns and villages.

Activities carried out during the small gatherings
We are very happy to report that Sri Lanka Police, Health Authorities and Local Government Authorities of all the districts we held Small gatherings supported us in making this venture a great success. The proceeding in all gatherings was: After a brief introduction of the organization and supporters the women and men were welcomed by the organizer and the chair of AWAW told that this campaign is a must today because the situation the country is in. Though as a country the Government, the armed forces together with police and the health sector with an enormous support of the people have been able to control the Covid19 pandemic, but as a nation we are unable to move further because of the divisions such as ethnic, religious, party political, demographical, class, caste and the recent addition of schools. As a country which has gone through a 30 year long armed conflict, Tsunami, Easter Sunday Bombing and now Covid do need to stay united for the country. Realizing this dire necessity, the SMART75 members who comes from all political parties and streams as well all ethnic and religious backgrounds and all districts of the country came up with this logo and the slogan to showcase the unity among them amidst their diversity. When we discussed about what will be the best way of taking the message to the
deep interiors we realized that the three wheelers go to every nook and corner to every cities and villages thus three wheelers were chosen to pass the message. The advocacy materials distributed did display the message in all three languages (Sinhala, Tamil, English) and keeping in mind the deep polarization during elections, this was a small attempt to show that irrespective of all differences “WE STAND UNITED FOR OUR COUNTRY”

- Distribution of umbrellas with the logo and slogan
- Distribution of environment friendly cloth bags with the logo and the slogan
- Distribution of mugs with the slogan and the logo of the campaign
- Distribution of Brochures on preventing violence against girl child
- Pasting of stickers with the logo and the slogan in all three languages to be put on three wheelers and other vehicles.

The Launch of the Campaign - 3rd June 2020, Opposite Central Market Kandy

The launch of the campaign “We stand united for our country” was successfully held on 3rd of June in front of the Central Market, Kandy at 10.00 a.m. Members of TEAM 1325 & SMART 75, AWAW Advisors Board members, staff, Police and general public and also media were present at the event.
The campaign was carried out very successfully in most parts of the country during the month of June & July 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>District / Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6th June</td>
<td>Anuradhapura Anuradhapura Bus stand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th June</td>
<td>Jaffna Near the railway station and bus stand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th June</td>
<td>Kilinochchi - Paranthan Paranthan Junction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th June</td>
<td>Mullaitivu Mullaitivu town</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th June</td>
<td>Mannar Mannar Bus Stand</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th June</td>
<td>Vavuniya Vavuniya Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th June</td>
<td>Polonnaruwa Kaduruwela bus stand &amp; railway station</td>
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<tr>
<td>16th June</td>
<td>Batticaloa Batticalao Town</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th June</td>
<td>Galle Galle bus stand</td>
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<tr>
<td>22nd June</td>
<td>Puttalam Puttalam town</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd June</td>
<td>Kurunegala Kurunegala town</td>
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<td>25th June</td>
<td>Mawarala - Matara Mlatiyana Bus stand</td>
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<tr>
<td>27th June</td>
<td>Matara Matara Town Bus stand</td>
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<td>29th June</td>
<td>Matale Matale Town</td>
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<td>1st July</td>
<td>Nuwara Eliya Nuwara Eliya Bus stand</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd July</td>
<td>Hatton Hatton Bus stand</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th July</td>
<td>Kegalle Kegalle Town</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th July</td>
<td>Ratnapura Ratnapura Bus stand</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th July</td>
<td>Mahiyanganaya Mahiyanganaya Town &amp; Bus stand</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th July</td>
<td>Badulla Badulla Clock tower</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th July</td>
<td>Trincomalee Trinco Town</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th July</td>
<td>Buttala Buttala town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th July</td>
<td>Hambantota Hambantota Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th July</td>
<td>Ampara Ampara town</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Advocacy Review Meeting was held on 13th June 2020 at Riverdale Hotel, Kandy to discuss about the progress of the advocacy campaign and other relevant details, chaired by Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa.

Final Evaluation meeting was held on the 18th July 2020 at Riverdale Hotel, Kandy.

Lessons learned and views of the district organizers about the advocacy campaign;

- It is important to have the authorities’ informed so that they will support a campaign. This was evident because without the police support we wouldn’t have been able to carry out the campaign very successfully.
- Having reliable partners/colleagues throughout the country was immensely helpful if not it would have been difficult to get the necessary permission and organize.
- It is always better to hold many small events than one big event in a centrally located place.
- If not for Covid & General elections we could have tried to paste Stickers Island wide on one selected date at a selected time, because AWAW do have the capacity and trust of people to carry out very important work for the betterment of the country.
The Road to Reconciliation in Sri Lanka – Through Resilience Building & Social Cohesion

• One day Consultation to draw a road map for the project

One day meeting to draft a PVE roadmap was carried out successfully with 25 participants on 25th of January 2020 at Riverdale Hotel, Kandy. The participants included prominent men and women from different parts of the country who have been working with AWA for a long period of time. Here the activities of the project were discussed in detail.

• Three peer committees were created in Batticaloa, Mannar & Matale and it brought the women once every month to coordinate events. These gatherings strengthened relationships across communities. They did joint action and not only their families and friends, but also the larger community witnessed them.
Our first visit was to meet the Peer Committee in Batticalo on February 15th 2020
The women decided that at this meeting it will be a food demonstration of each community which was very interesting because they even had similar food but the name they called was different, they also had homemade wine, and they wore their traditional dresses.

Our second visit was to meet the Peer Committee in Mannar on 22nd February 2020, in here also women had the food demonstration of each community

Matale Peer Committee meeting
Matale as the other two areas, Different communities, different dresses and food but they come together as women
Muslim women from Kathankudi coming to a clean church after Easter Sunday Bombing has a big impact on reconciliation

Women found creative ways of engaging with the community to win their hearts during Covid

Face masks distribution Mannar

Distribution of soap in Batticaloa

Children’s Evening in Batticaloa – The Road to Reconciliation project created a platform for diverse religious members to come together, not only for adults they created a space for children as well.

Art competition - “My country in 2048” in Batticaloa
The objective of this competition was to make students spend their time in productive manner during their stay at home due to Covid19. They were asked to think about Sri Lanka after hundred years of independence and put their ideas into drawing. Drawings were sent through WhatsApp.
Kovil cleaning in Batticaloa, Mariyamman Kovil in Batticaloa
A Hindu lady who came to the Kovil to worship was really shocked to see the Muslim girl cleaning the main worship place of the Hindus.

Mosque cleaning
Masjidus Shuhatha Mosque in Kathankudy
A quote from a Catholic lady “After Easter attack, I had a negative idea about the Muslim community, I stop buying food from Muslim restaurants. First, I refused when I was invited for mosque cleaning but later, I decided to go because I have never visited a mosque before and I thought that this is a good opportunity. I entered the mosque with fear but my fear was gone after their warm welcome and hospitality. I wish that this relationship should continue to next generation as well.”

Buddhist Temple cleaning, Sri Mangalarama Raja Maha Viharaya in Batticaloa
A quote from a Christian “I was really happy and I felt relaxed when I was cleaning the temple. Though I am a Christian I didn’t have any strange feeling when I was cleaning. To make me relax I involve in most of the Church activities. I got the same relaxation and satisfaction when I was cleaning this Buddhist temple as well.”

“Let’s stop using plastic” – a programme was conducted in Mannar and a shramadana campaign was held. In the end the participants were given clay vessels.

First Aid and Medical Care for domestic accidents. This session was held in Mannar with 25 participants and Doctor Shakthibalavan and Dharsini (Mid Wife) facilitated this session.
St. Thomas Church cleaning in Matale

Discussion on commonalities of the religions held in Matale with the peer committee members

Christmas party
There were many children coming from different ethnic backgrounds to celebrate Christmas. Small games were organized for the kids and gifts were distributed. The kids were very happy to participate in the games. It was very nice to see children as well women of different ethnic backgrounds coming together to celebrate Christmas.
PEOPLE TO PEOPLE DIALOGUE TOWARDS SOCIAL COHESION

We got 36 individuals from the below categories for 9 three days of workshops

✓ Clergy of all faiths
✓ Civil society leaders, youth
✓ Professionals and academics

Phase 1: To promote better understanding between participants, Establish communication channels between communities, build trust, identify common problems, and build capacity through collaborative problem-solving

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date &amp; Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase 1 - 1st workshop</td>
<td>24th, 25th &amp; 26th July 2020 at Girithale Hotel, Girithale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phase 1 - 2nd workshop</td>
<td>13th, 14th &amp; 15th August 2020 at Girithale Hotel, Girithale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phase 1 - 3rd workshop</td>
<td>20th, 21st &amp; 22nd August 2020 at Girithale Hotel, Girithale</td>
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Mr. Indika Perera & Mr. Asela Kelum facilitated the dialogues

The participants were warmly welcomed by Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa, chair of AWAW. The participants were asked to make small groups of 3 and one person introduced the other.

The facilitators asked the attendees about what they think when they hear the word ‘conflict’. Some of the most frequent answers were: fear, war, anger, pain, fight, disaster. Thus, the facilitators explained that very concept is like an iceberg: Although only the very top is visible for the naked eye, there is still something important hiding under water. Therefore, with regard to the concept of conflict, although what we might see at first glance is fear, war, anger, pain, fight, disaster, we shall not overlook other important but concealed issues and aspects.

Session 1 – Introduction to the ICEBERG Theory

The facilitators explained that very concept is like an iceberg: Although only the very top is visible for the naked eye, there is still something important hiding under water. Therefore, with regard to the concept of conflict, although what we might see at first glance is fear, war, anger, pain, fight, disaster, we shall not overlook other important but concealed issues and aspects.

Here there was a lengthy discussion of Titanic, why TITANIC was drowned, the theory of density and Archimedes’ it was because the Captain of the ship didn’t know that an Iceberg has three quarter of its volume under water hidden and that is why until the ships Hull hit it and broke he didn’t know.

Similarly any conflict has what is

VISIBLE – Top of Ice berg

INVISIBLE - ROOT CAUSES
**Session 2 - Introduction to the Problem Tree**

The attendees were introduced to the Problem Tree. That is, a method designed to identify clear and manageable objectives by visually mapping the specific problems, causes, and effects of a given situation. Subsequently, three groups of attendees were asked to find and analyze relevant examples of Problem Trees from their experience. After each team finished to work on their problem trees, they presented them to the audience: Problem tree was drawn for the– Civil unrest 1988/1989 conflict, 30 year long war & Easter Sunday Attacks”

Bark – The Issue
Branches, leaves, flowers and fruit – Results
Birds, insects, monkeys – those who take advantage of the situation
Roots – Root causes
New plants from roots or fallen seeds – which take may be same form or other forms of conflicts

**North East Conflict**
Southern Civil Unrest in 1988 - 1989
Easter Sunday Attacks
Session 3 - Introduction to Conflict Mapping

At the outset, the attendees were instructed to always analyze topics in depth. For clarity, the facilitators considered some issues and through the suggestions of the attendees they deconstructed them.

North East Conflict Mapping
Civil unrest 1988 - 1989 period

G - Government
F - Security Sector
J - JVP
D - Patriotic People’s Front
I - Inter University Students’ Federation
P - Para Military (Pra - Section)
Y - Yellow cats
B - Black cats
C - Community
T - Buddhist Temple

Easter Sunday Conflict Mapping
Session 4: Fears & Expectations

Every party to a conflict has fears and expectations, therefore it is very important to analyze these properly. For Conflict resolution we need to fulfill the expectations and get the fear eliminated. In here the 3 groups took the main stakeholders and analyzed their fears and expectations.

Conflict in North & East in Sri Lanka
Civil unrest 1988 – 1989 period
## Easter Sunday Attacks

### Fears and Expectation Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fears</th>
<th>Expectations</th>
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Session 5 – Introduction to the ABC triangle

ABC triangle developed by Norwegian born Prof. Johan Galtung, and approach taken by Prof. John Paul Lederach of USA on Attitudes (A), Behavior (B) & Contradiction (C) was discussed and the 3 conflicts were put into the ABC triangle.

This theory was found by looking at a conflict which flares just like a Tornado which gets bigger and the circle of it increases just like a conflict.

Conflict has its own dynamics. It is living. If you take a cross section of a Tornado, then you get a Triangle,
How can we stop it or reverse it? How can we stop the Vicious circle???
Attitudes are instrumental in behaviors, and the attitudes are developed through families. To change the society we need to change the family attitudes. Then we can reverse the cycle. Also Media plays a crucial role in making people violent, violent films of South India is screened by media and people become violent.

Our behavior is also controlled by our religion. but sometimes we need laws to control. Government, religious leaders and civil society all can play a very big role, they also can take action. Media should refrain from polarizing people. People do listen to religious leaders. So it is their duty to defuse any tension which can give room for conflict. They need to discuss and bring solutions before it get worse.
North East Conflict
Civil unrest 1988 - 1989 period
Easter Sunday Attacks
Phase 1 - First three day workshop

Phase 1 - 2nd three day workshop
Phase 1 - 3rd three day workshop
Phase 2: To build on the relationships established in Phase I to improve communication and understanding in order to increase the support for peace and social cohesion

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Phase 2 - 1st workshop</td>
<td>3rd, 4th, 5th September 2020 at Habarana Village, Habarana</td>
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<td>Phase 2 - 2nd workshop</td>
<td>17th, 18th &amp; 19th September 2020 at Habarana Lodge, Habarana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phase 2 - 3rd workshop</td>
<td>24th, 25th &amp; 26th September 2020 at Habarana Village, Habarana</td>
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These dialogues were conducted mainly focusing on the background, history and how Transitional Justice came about to Sri Lankan political agenda. The present situation of TJ in Sri Lanka and the following four proposed mechanisms were discussed

1. Office of the missing – Dealing with the past
2. Truth Commission – Identifying a common narrative
3. Special courts - Justice and accountability
4. Office for Reparation – Rebuilding and reconciliation, avoiding recurrence

Gendered TJ animation was screened. Discussion on Gendered TJ and why it is important? Its impact on the implementation of theoretical and technical aspects in Sri Lanka along with gender and patriarchy was discussed.

Why is Peace building Important and How can we engage in Peace Building with a special emphasis on Gender was also discussed. Moreover hate speech which hinders peace building and situations that arise from them were analysed.

1st workshop
Phase III: Joint Action - Reconciliation: participants continued their discussions on previously identified specific and current issues, while also building their peace-building and conflict resolution models and techniques, this also had a component of field visits where they were taken for three selected areas (Batticaloa, Mannar & Kandy) to learn from the ground.

| Phase 3 - Field visit & dialogue Jaffna | 7th to 10th October 2020 - Dialogue at Northgate Jetwing, Jaffna |
| Phase 3 - Field Visit & dialogue Kandy | 20th to 22nd November 2020 - Dialogue at Cinnamon Citadel Kandy |
| Phase 3 - Field Visit & dialogue Batticaloa | 26th & 29th November 2020 - Dialogue at East Lagoon, Batticaloa |

Observations during the Field visit to Jaffna

- It was clear that the economy of the area is mainly based on agriculture and fisheries industry. It was very common to see a well in almost every house.
- The crops mainly harvested in the area are Manioc, Carrots, Kidaram, Papaw, Banana, Coconut, Chillies and Paddy. These plantations were very prosperous even though the area is in short of water supplies. It shows the courage and dedication of the people in the areas.
- “Dambakola patuna” was preserved well even though it looks modern than having a historic value. (During the war it was destroyed and reconstructed by the Sri Lanka Navy ) That place is maintained and run by Tamil Buddhists which shows that we are all mixed and we cannot be identified or separated by the religion or the ethnic group.
- Even though the majority in the area is Tamil we could see a lot of connections of Hindu's and Buddhist - Noticed a Kovil with a Boa tree on top of it. These places seem to be very old and it shows the unity between the sinhalese and Tamil also it's proof that they've lived together peacefully.
- Armed forces were very friendly and invited to visit places even though it was during the pandemic. Maybe they were longing to see the non-Tamils as the area is full of Tamils. Milady harbor which has stopped functioning and destroyed during the war has been reconstructed and open for the fishermen whicha good economical support for the fishermen.
- A street was named “Raja Vidiya” to represent the last king of Jaffna kingdom “Sangilli II” - 1565
- It was noticeable that people in the area are in the need of learning Sinhala language as we could see posters regarding Sinhala tuition classes.
- There were sign boards with all three languages as well, which is very rare in other provinces of the country
- “Mandapakadu” was a rocky land with an underground natural cave with rooms which should be developed and maintained properly which can be used to attract tourists and open gates for the people in the area to strengthen their economy through tourism. It is said that it has a historical value since in ancient times the cave was used for meditation by monks.
- Around this area could notice that people had no sanitary facilities (Ex:Toiles). This should be paid attention and taken immediate actions to provide them with the necessary facilities.
❖ Even though we don't notice Boa trees older than 30 years in that area (Since Boa Trees were planted by Armed forces) it was a very important observation that very old Boa Trees could be seen. This clearly shows that there should've been close and cordial relationships between Tamils and Sinhalese even before the war. As we still see those places unharmed it is a very good example to prove that people in these areas have not hatred towards Sinhalese.
❖ The cemeteries had tombstones representing every religion but with no separately allocated areas for every religion unlike in the rest of Country
❖ It was quite common to see 1 or 2 tombstones in the corner of the gardens of some houses. This shows their simplicity and also the ruins of the painful lives they had during the war.
❖ People in the area seemed very friendly and supportive and it shows even after a 30 years of war they do not have hatred in them and humanity is left in their hearts.
❖ The hospitality of the people in the area was very high
❖ The person who was our guide and a part of this project has been kept by the armed forces suspecting he was a member of the LTTE and even broke his legs. Still we couldn't find hatred in him towards the army. He is a peace builder himself.
❖ Respect given by the people in the area even for a religious leader who is not from their religion shows how humble they are.

After the field visit, the Conflict tree, conflict mapping and the conflict triangle which was used in analyzing the North East conflict focused during phase 1 was discussed. Further this visit paved the way to experience practically and conduct the analysis in a more successful approach. The participants were guided to compare the previously drawn conflict trees and maps done by separate groups, and get the commonalities of them to draw a new conflict tree and a map (integrated problem tree & conflict mapping)
Observations during the Field visit in Kandy

The following significant sights in the Peradeniya University were visited by the group with the guidance of Prof. Tudor Silva who also provided comprehensive insights regarding the locations.

Polonnaruwa –
✓ This space is identified as “polonnaruwa”, it has stone pillars, small in size but similar to stone pillars in polonnaruwa era.
✓ Students gather at polonnaruwa to discuss mainly political conversations and activities, including discussions on planning protest etc.

Gemba Canteen –
✓ This canteen is a prohibited space for anti raggers – only raggers are permitted to come (this is not official, but that’s how it works), there is a huge division between raggers and anti raggers.
✓ A space famous for ragging students.

“Strike Gaha “
✓ Students commence their strikes at this point.

Sarathchandra Open Air Theater -
✓ Open air theater is a Greek concept.
✓ Famous stage dramas in Sri Lanka, being showcased at this open Air Theater as an annual event.
✓ Receiving positive comments / feedback for dramas showcased at this theater, is perceived as a good drama.

Hindu Kovil –
✓ The student come to the kovil to do their rituals and devotions
✓ Kovil conducts its usual poojas and other cultural festival – during these special events Hindu students including the villagers in the neighborhood participate.

Mosque –
✓ Built around 1964,
✓ conducts the daily prayer sessions, including Friday prayers
✓ it provide accommodation for students who come from outstation

Christian Church –
✓ conduct Sunday service for students

Buddhist Temple –
✓ Students come for meditation
✓ Sunday school for students are conducted, children in the
• The only university that students and lectures all live in the same premises. 80% in student halls, therefore it is more feasible to organize and mobilize.

• Sir William Ivor Jennings – the 1st dean at the Peradeniya University who was joined the university in 1952, he was the pioneer of designing the University buildings and its structure.

• When designing the University the diversity of the country was recognized, it was designed to accommodate all ethnic and religious groups in the country.

• It provided all facilities for the students, including the facilities for theater and drama, it was designed with the social philosophical vision. It enables students to identify and explore social injustices that motivate young minds to fight against social injustice.

• This University has a significant history of many social struggles, it is a place filled with memories from the history.

Visit to Lankathilake & Galadeniya Temple:
✓ Discovered Sinhala and Tamil writings on the stones- it is evident that both Sinhala and Tamil people were living together.

After the field visit, the Conflict tree, conflict mapping and the conflict triangle which was used in analyzing the civil unrest in 1988/89 focused during phase 1 was discussed. Further this visit paved the way to experience practically and conduct the analysis in a more successful approach. The participants were guided to compare the previously drawn conflict trees and maps done by separate groups, and get the commonalities of them to draw a new conflict tree and a map (integrated problem tree & conflict mapping).
Observations during the Field visit to Batticaloa

Kalladi bridge -
✓ Chinese government funded to developed the bridge after the war, it was build by Governor Manning

Dutch Bar Road –
✓ After Tsumani, people were settled

Kalladi Mahavir –
✓ This time no Mahaveer celebrations

Ramakrishna Mission –
✓ A space for multi religious activities
✓ All religious groups work together here

Vipulananada Music College –
✓ This is under Eastern University

Sarasavi Madura –
✓ Students from diverse ethnicities are studying together here

Entrance to Katthankudi
✓ At the entrance the welcome board is written in Arabic,
✓ All trees planted a imported date trees
✓ Cultural centers are named after Hisbullah

Ariyamtahai –
✓ Multiple issues due to its archeological context
✓ Muslims have encroached the lands in this area
✓ During excavations Buddhist statues were found
✓ Many ruins belong to Buddhist culture was there (Mal Asanaya, Cave, stone pillars )
✓ It is believed that Dantha hemamala brought the tooth relic here.

Ulaganachchi
✓ There are evidence that Kandyan and Eastern Kingdoms were together, archeological factors confirms the unifying factor.

Bradix –
✓ Nearly 4000 jobs are provided by the factory.

Wammanunai bridge –
✓ Built by Japanees after the war, as gift for Sri Lanka people,

Kokkadicholai –
✓ Political base of LTTE Eastern area.

Bird Sanctuary –
✓ Annually 300 -400 birds are coming, but now many lands are been given by at the discretion of the DS for various
purposes (prawn tanks, sand mining), these actions have negative impacts on bird sanctuary.

Sivan Kovil –
✓ An important worship place, during Portages rule, they destroy all the kovils except the Sivan Kovil.

Thanthamalai –
✓ During 1960s Tamil Politicians destroyed the Buddhist statues.

Mawadi Munamali –
✓ Irrigation channels are blocked, it affects the road and it cause heavy damages to the roads.

Kachchakodi –
✓ Largest area in this DS division
✓ Important archeological site – prior to 2008, none of these sites were damaged, affected, it started post 2009.
✓ Pulukunwa tank – It was built during Madam Sirimavo Bandaranaike.
✓ There is evidence regarding ancient Chaithya, but not records.

Pulukunawa temple –
✓ The chief monk of the temple came to this area in year 2011.
✓ No adequate support / assistance given by state in terms of funding to the temple, annually Rs.3600.- is given by the Ministry.
✓ Conduct Sunday school for Sinhala and Tamil children in the village.

Unnichchai –
✓ After the war Chinese developed this to supply water to the urban areas in Kaththankudi.
✓ Village people facing a water issue.
✓ People in this village are victims of 1983 riots, they are resettled in Vavunathivu and kokadicholai, still they are struggling for water.

Overall Observations
✓ It was evident that people from diverse communities have been living together.
✓ Institutions (Ramakrishna mission, Music school, Sarasavi College etc..) are an indication that people form diverse communities lived together and shared the resources.
✓ Political influence in local planning and development – lack of well coordinate planning
✓ Environment hazards - Destruction of mangroves
✓ State livelihood assistances are not distributed equally (Eg: mangalagama).
✓ Lands are been given under the political influence without following procedure – circulars, regulations are not followed, no equal or proportionate distribution of lands, this could create tension in society, which can lead to conflict. Therefore, land issue is a crucial issue for Eastern region.
✓ Many gaps of functioning State democratic mechanisms.
✓ Many Archeological sites are existing, state need to give due attention in preserving them.

After the field visit, the Conflict tree, conflict mapping and the conflict triangle which was used in analyzing the Easter Sunday Attacks focused during phase 1 was discussed. Further this visit paved the way to experience practically and conduct the analysis in a more successful approach. The participants were guided to compare the previously drawn conflict trees and maps done by separate groups, and get the commonalities of them to draw a new conflict tree and a map (integrated problem tree & conflict mapping)

Zoom meetings with the Key Civil society actors

Online meeting held on the 6th November 2020 at 11.00 am

This meeting was organized to finalize the agenda for the two day dialogue on Civil Society Reflections & Experience Mapping of the Sri Lankan Peace Efforts & Developing a strategy for engagement on a home grown or locally driven Reconciliation Process & to fix with tentative dates for the dialogue. During this call the current prevailing COVID situation in the country was also discussed.
Zoom meeting held on the 13th November 2020 at 11.00 a.m.

Prof Kalinga Tudor Silva came up with an article “We Must Shift to an Inclusive-Participatory Approach towards Addressing COVID-19 and its Fallout” The participants were asked to give their input to the document and once it is enhanced with the inputs, to disseminate it widely. The new developments of the pandemic and the responses were also discussed during the call.

TWO DAY DIALOGUE on Civil Society Reflections & Experience Mapping of the Sri Lankan Peace Efforts & Developing a strategy for engagement on a home grown or locally driven Reconciliation Process was held very successfully on 18th & 19th of November 2020 at Cinnamon Citadel Hotel Kandy with the participation of key civil society representatives and university academics.

Discussion on Identifying and listing out the key points/ milestones in the Sri Lankan conflict from 1977 to 2020 and the significance of those milestones – Facilitated by Dr. Saravanamuththu.

Discussion on the roles of civil society/ NGOs played in each initiative Facilitated by - Joe Williams

Discussing and agreeing on the key root causes and how they were perceived by different communities (Muslim, Tamil and Sinhalese) – Facilitated by Prof. Jeyasingham

Envisioning a locally led/home grown reconciliation process - Facilitated by Dr. Jehan Perera

The main theme of discussion was to assess the peace processes of the past and to generate ideas that would support a nationally-driven reconciliation process. One of the significant proposals to arise out of the meeting was for the participants to make a joint submission to the Expert Committee on Constitutional Reform appointed by the government. The importance of a new constitution in the post-war context is that it will define the powers of government at the national and sub-national levels which is important to mitigate the long standing conflicts and tensions between the different ethnic and religious communities.
Zoom meetings with the key civil society actors were held for further discussion and to finalize the proposals for Constitutional Reforms to be submitted. The finalized proposals were translated to both Sinhala & Tamil and was sent to the expert committee. Methods to disseminate them for wider support was also discussed during the call.
Proposals for Constitutional Reform submitted by members of the Dialogue Workshop held on November 18 and 19 in Kandy to the Expert Committee to Draft a New Constitution

A. NATURE OF THE STATE

1. The Constitution shall reflect and promote the social and cultural diversity of the country’s population in the nature of the State.
2. Sri Lanka shall be a multi ethnic, multi religious, multi lingual, multi-cultural and plural state.
3. A Constitutional Council shall be instituted as provided for in the 19th Amendment.
4. There shall be special provisions for minority protection on the lines of the Soulbury Constitution’s Section 29 (2) which rendered void any law or any part of a law that sought to restrict the free exercise of any religion or subject persons of any community or religion to disabilities or restrictions not imposed on other communities or religions.
5. While every effort is made to respect diversity, local traditions, and religious prescriptions, they need to be in accord with international standards that Sri Lanka has formally adopted.

E-H. THE EXECUTIVE, THE LEGISLATURE, ELECTIONS AND DEVOLUTION

6. A Constitutional Council shall be appointed as provided for in the 19th Amendment.
7. The Legislature shall consist of two tiers- a Parliament and a Senate.
8. Election to the Senate shall be 3 members from each province with 5 members to be appointed by the Constitutional Council to represent under-represented or unrepresented communities (eg. Malays, Burghers, Indigenous People etc.)
9. The President and two Vice Presidents shall be elected as a team by an Electoral College consisting of members of the Senate, Parliament and Provincial Councils. The number of members voting from the Provincial Councils will be 25 from each. The election of the President and Vice Presidents will require a 2/3 majority to ensure greater consensus. The two vice Presidents should be from the minority communities.
10. Elections to Parliament, Senate and Provincial Councils shall take place concurrently.
11. All elections shall be for a fixed term. If the budget is defeated twice, the President shall call on the person most likely to command a majority to form the government for the remaining period.
12. All elections will be on a mixed member system. To ensure that there will be a minimum of 1/3 representation for women from constituencies and there will be a closed (appointed) national list where every other candidate will be a woman.
13. The Provincial Council system will be strengthened and non-executive Governors will be appointed by the Constitutional Council. The Governors will assent to Provincial Council legislation.

14. The Provincial Councils shall run for their full term. However, there will be provision for suspension or dissolution of a Provincial Council in special circumstances.

15. The National Police Commission shall be tasked with recruiting all police personnel, and also the training and appointing personnel above the rank of SSP. The national police may also act in case of local emergencies.

16. Training and appointments of police personnel below the rank of SSP shall be done by Provincial Councils. Transfers and other administrative matters will be placed under the Provincial Public Service Commissions.

17. The Constitutional Council will propose three names to head the police in the Provincial police force. The Chief Minister shall select one person who will be appointed by the governor.

18. Land powers shall be devolved to the Provincial Councils with the exception of the forest and wildlife reservations and sea coast which will vested with the central government. Where the Central Government requires land for national projects, the Provincial Council shall collaborate with it.

19. The principle of subsidiarity will be given priority in which matters are handled by the smallest, lowest or least centralized competent authority.

20. Taxes and revenues shall be shared between the Central Government and Provincial Councils on a rational and just basis that make the regions more attractive for investment and provincial development.

I. OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST

21. There shall be a Pluralism and Diversity Commission. In particular the commission will be mandated to work on issues that are identified in the fundamental rights chapter of the constitution.

22. A 5-member Commission shall be appointed by the Constitutional Council and be representative of the country’s ethnic and religious diversity.

23. The Pluralism and Diversity Commission shall be mandated to propagate the idea of pluralism in society, to have an annual plan that includes civic education and be encouraged to be creative and far thinking in energetically engaging on issues that bind the communities.

24. The Pluralism and Diversity Commission shall have the power to conduct its own inquiries, give directives to be implemented and to take issues to the courts through the Attorney General.

25. The Pluralism and Diversity Commission shall have a regional presence with its own offices in the regions. It will work closely with any government agency working on issues that come under the commission’s purview.

26. The Pluralism and Diversity Commission shall be empowered to refer any proposed law to the Supreme Court with its observations.
Developing an outcome document with all the inputs of the People to People dialogue series to share with academic institutions and all relevant stakeholders. A three day meeting was held on the 9th, 10th & 11th of December 2020 at Mahaweli Reach Hotel, Kandy.

People to people dialogue towards Social Cohesion – Conclusion meeting was held on 14th & 15th December 2020 at Habarana Village, Habarana. This meeting was conducted to bring all the 36 individuals together and build a stronger relationship among them. Here Mr. Indika Perera facilitated a session on mediation.
The launch of the campaign “SHE BUILDS PEACE”
Funded by ICAN

The launch of the campaign “SHE BUILDS PEACE” was held on 29th of May 2020 at Riverdale Hotel, Anniwatte, Kandy with 30 participants.

Amidst Covid19, we were able to carry out the event very successfully. We got participants coming from different districts of the country. They got permission from their district health authorities. This event was conducted as per the guidelines given by the health authorities and special permission was taken from the Health Authority of Kandy Municipal Council.

Since few months back it didn’t look like the Covid19 situation will change very quickly, we decided to carry out the campaign in the districts with very small gatherings. But things were getting better and we were able to get the participants from outstation as well, so we decided to have a one day event in Kandy as planned previously.

The participants were given the opportunity to speak about the role of women peacebuilders during disasters whether man made or natural. They also spoke as women peacebuilders the opportunity that we have to serve the communities by engaging in agriculture so that we can share the crops etc. It was also mentioned that Covid19 enabled us to be strengthened as a family where all members are able to share the work. They also spoke about the importance of coming together as women across all divides specially at a time where it is important for us to work together and it was also said that the coming election season where normally the polarization is done by politicians but as women we need to keep our friendships and bonding very strong. We also explained to them about the four pillars (SOAR).

We handed over cloth bags with the “She builds peace” logo together with better peace tools to the women leaders who came and they also took cloth bags to handover to the women in their respective provinces. We are sure because we got 1500 cloth bags it will be spread throughout the country.
UKRI GCRF Gender, Justice and Security Hub
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. The main aim of this project is to bring rural women together across the divide to work together for a prosperous economy & build a shared future.

A two day training session was held on the 10th & 11th of January 2020 at Riverdale Hotel, Kandy where Ms. Neelam Raina & Ms. Zahra Hussain discussed about the fieldwork pack during the session.

Focus group meeting was conducted in Batticaloa on the 15th & 16th of February with the craft women of Batticaloa and production centers were visited.
Focus group meeting was held in Mannar on 22nd & 23rd February 2020 to meet the craft women of Mannar and production centers were visited.

Meeting to meet the focus group of Kandy was held on the 13th of June 2020 at Riverdale Hotel, Kandy from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

LSE Middlesex - Visiting AWAW 9th January 2020
Localizing SDG 16 Plus - Women taking leadership
Funded by GPPAC

Three one day workshops on Sustainable Development Goals for men & women of the plantation sector were held successfully on

- 11th of September at Ceybank Rest, Nuwara Eliya with 20 participants
- 3rd of October at Castlereagh Resort, Hatton with 22 participants
- 31st of October at Riverdale Hotel Kandy with 20 participants

The aim of these workshops was to highlight the importance of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals for Sri Lanka and walk towards it with the contribution from all segments and sectors of the society.

The plantation leaders discussed the issues faced by them and also possible solutions, where they can use advocacy and lobbying as tools to secure solutions to their problems.
The participants were warmly welcomed by Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa, chair of AWAW.

They were told that since we all know that there are very serious issues of wage difference, housing, education and health and many more faced by the plantation sector for generations and finding solutions were all broken promises for all these years, we collectively have to work on a strategy where the worker and the management can reach to a win win situation, since securing the rights of the worker is very important in protecting the plantation and tea industry as well for their livelihoods as living of more than half million people depends on plantation in this country.

Each Sustainable Development Goal was taken up and the participants were asked to connect them with their issues.

SDG 1 - No poverty - End poverty in all its forms everywhere
SDG 2 - Zero hunger - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
SDG 3 - Good health and well-being - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all
SDG 4 - Quality education - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
SDG 5 - Gender equality - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
SDG 6 - Clean water and sanitation - Ensure access to water and sanitation for all
SDG 7 - Affordable and clean energy - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
SDG 8 - Decent work and economic growth - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
SDG 9 - Industry, innovation, infrastructure - Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
SDG 10 - Reduced inequalities - Reduce inequality within and among countries
SDG 11 - Sustainable cities and communities - Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
SDG 12 Responsible consumption, production - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
SDG 13 - Climate action - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
SDG 14 - Life below water - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources
SDG 15 - Life on land - Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss
SDG 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions - Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies
SDG 17 - Partnerships for the goals - Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development
Some of the issues that were tabled and linked to the SDGs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues</th>
<th>Link</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of sanitary facilities</td>
<td>SDG 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in usage of illegal drugs</td>
<td>SDG 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No proper shelter (many people living in one small house)</td>
<td>SGD 1 / SDG 10 SDG 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of clean drinking water</td>
<td>SDG 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child abuse</td>
<td>SDG 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of job opportunities</td>
<td>SDG 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of transport</td>
<td>SDG 9 / SDG 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deforestation and environmental pollution</td>
<td>SDG 15 / SDG 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improper distribution of government aid (Samurdhi)</td>
<td>SDG 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disparity in wages</td>
<td>SDG 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Race, language discrimination</td>
<td>SDG 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social disputes</td>
<td>SDG 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of training and motivation</td>
<td>SDG 9 / SDG 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of schools/education facilities</td>
<td>SDG 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elderly are not taken care of</td>
<td>SDG 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic needs not being met</td>
<td>SDG 1 / SDG 2 /SDG 4/ SDG 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malnutrition</td>
<td>SDG 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety issues</td>
<td>SDG 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excessive use of chemical fertilizer which pollutes the water sources by the increase in number of factories</td>
<td>SDG 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication issues</td>
<td>SDG 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>There is no proper guidance for youth</td>
<td>SDG 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issues of ownership of land</td>
<td>SDG 8 / SDG 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Issues

1. Issues faced by Migrant domestic workers mainly women
2. Lack of protection for women, they are unable to go out in the evenings.
3. Women tea puckers face issues of leeches which is a severe problem, no proper care system
4. Women mainly pregnant women face a lot of hardships due to lack of toilets
5. Women working hours are much longer than men, Men’s working hours are 1.30 pm while women have to work till 5.
6. Girls are not allowed to come to the library after 5 pm and most of the time once they finish homework, they are not allowed to go to the library after 5 pm

Solutions that were suggested;

✓ Introducing and following methods to protect physical resources
✓ NGOs to take actions for cleaning water resources. Example: conduct awareness programs on importance of protecting the environment, distribute handouts and conduct Shramadana (Volunteer work) campaigns
✓ System to collect rain water
✓ Proper disposal of chemicals and industrial wastes
✓ Planting more trees to prevent soil erosion
✓ Proper disposal of garbage and making compost
✓ Reduce the usage of polythene
✓ Provide basic education for children
✓ Protect wild animals
✓ Start home gardening
✓ Avoid using chemical fertilizers
✓ Implement proper drainage systems
✓ Stop sand and gem mining
✓ Working collectively as groups
✓ All what was told was that local government delivery was not reaching to the estate, they decided to take collective action by way of writing letters and making the authorities aware of equal distribution of Government services
✓ Awareness raising on women’s protection

SDG committees were established and AAWAW will be working with them
Enhancing Women’s Skills on Mediation and Conflict Transformation for Reconciliation Processes
Women Mediators across the Commonwealth
Funded by Conciliation Resources

A two day residential training on Gendered Conflict Analysis and Conflict Transformation was held very successfully on 5th & 6th December 2020 at Mahaweli Reach Hotel Kandy with women lawyers. Few Concepts of Conflict Studies i.e Conflict Resolution, Conflict Management, Conflict Transformation, Positional bargaining and Real needs, Win – Win situation & the tools to analyze a conflict i.e problem tree, conflict mapping etc were discussed in the first training.

A two day residential training on Negotiation and Mediation concepts, skills and attitudes was held very successfully on 9th & 10th of December 2020 at Mahaweli Reach Hotel, Kandy. Different models of Negotiation and Mediation, Effective communication skills and negotiation skills were discussed during this training.

The next two day residential training will be held in January 2021.
COVID 19 RELATED ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY ASSOCIATION OF WAR AFFECTED WOMEN
FUNDED BY INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY ACTION NETWORK (ICAN)

The COVID-19 outbreaks have significant impacts in all contexts. We have to remember that this virus is highly contagious and also has a long lifespan on different surfaces and since it is covered by a layer of fat, takes a long time to get rid of it. Thus it was very important to spread the message of social distancing as well proper methods of washing hands and this was done by members of SMART 75 & the PEER committees through social media. Up to now we have been getting the women to work on through social media, and phone, Making people aware of adhering to the WHO and health authorities advice and guidelines. And also reminding them the traditions we had of keeping a child isolated for 7 days if he/she has got chicken pox or measles, and the way we could protect the other children and also their school mates from getting the disease. We got the women to call small scale and large scale food stores and get the food delivered to the door steps of the people of their respective areas. Another area was medicine for people who were on daily or weekly doses and women leaders did contact people and made sure the medicine was delivered to the door steps.

Another major issue that we had to tackle was the increasing domestic violence. Women were doing their best and went way beyond to rescue women from their homes: SMART 75 member with the help of a lawyer directly intervened and was able to bring back a woman who was abused and got her back to her home. They followed all curfew rules and was able to help her.

We were also making calls for the police and authorities to warn people about the action they will take if domestic violence are committed. Call to close all liquor shops even when the curfew is lifted for few hours.

Another major challenge that Sri Lanka is facing is the growing ethnic disharmony between communities due to communalization of COVID 19, and the hate messages as well false news are spreading in social media. SMART 75 members and PEER Committees did mitigate these by their positive messaging.

Sri Lanka has more than 4 to 5 million people who are depending on daily or weekly money for living, apart from the daily laborers. People are going to be hit very hard no salaries as well no way of earning money. AWAW started to carry out very small scale relief programme through our women leaders, mainly to plantation sector with food, milk for children and also special needs for women and girls using ICAN Bridge funding. The women select the families who are in dire need and distribute the essentials.

We also had requests from the Police for PPE equipment so that when they take people for quarantine their offices are protected. We provided them 280 PPEs for the entire Kandy division.
Polonnaruwa

Kurunegala

Kilinochchi
Kandy

Distribution of cloth bags
Personnel Protective Equipment

Stitching & Distribution of Face Masks
GLOBAL INVOLVEMENTS

"Protecting Women Peacebuilders: How to secure the frontline of a Global Movement for Inclusive Peace & Sustainable Peace"

Workshop organized by International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) & the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) was held on 11th & 12th February 2020 in London

Meeting the Dutch Ambassador in Sri Lanka on 6th February 2020
International Webinar on Public Health, Women’s Agency and Peacebuilding:

Women’s Rights, Recognition and Protection during COVID19 Pandemic

Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa, Chair of AWAW was a Keynote speaker based on the theme ‘Inclusive Public Health, Gender Impact and Stakeholders Role: A Global Perspective’ held on Saturday 8th of August 2020 from 3.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. organized by Yakjah Reconciliation and Development Network in collaboration with The Law School, University of Jammu and International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN).

Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa, chair of AWAW was a speaker in the Regional Session that the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies hosted during the E-Conference on "Local Women Voices for Peace and Security in South Asia" on Wednesday, September 23, at 11 am Colombo time. This was hosted in honor of the 20th anniversary of UNSC Resolution 1325.
Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa participated in the Virtual conference "Amplifying Voices for Peace: Women peacebuilders and women mediators at the peace table – the new norm" | held on 5 October 2020, 5.30 p.m. to 7.15 p.m. SL time

Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa, Chair of AWAW was a speaker at the launch of ICAN’s New brief: Protecting Women Peacebuilders: The Frontlines of Sustainable Peace held on Friday 23rd of October 2020

Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa participated in the Virtual IPF Gender Training. The first session was held on **Thursday, December 3rd** at **8.30 p.m. SL time** & second session was held on **Monday, December 7th & 8.30 p.m. SL time**

Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa, facilitated the training session on Transitional Justice – part of the training seminar on **Gender Responsive and inclusive mediation** organized by International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) & Women Mediators across the Commonwealth (WMC) members held on 16th December 2020 at 7.30 p.m. SL time
Ms. Visaka Dhardamasa, Chair of AWAW was featured in the Forbes article “Women Peace Builders Are Essential for Sustainable World Peace” written by Jackie Abramian


Forbes

collaborations with first responders aware of “humanitarian corridors, able to negotiate access, and who know the real needs of the Yemeni population.”

Visaka Dharmadasa, Founder of Sri Lanka’s Association for War Affected Women (AWAW) knows, “No one funds anything for nothing—It is how best we use the funding that matters, but some donor agencies can ruin countries’ agriculture, health systems, etc., so we have to be very careful in those areas.”

International aid can negatively hinder locally sustainable socio-economic opportunities, leading to aid dependence—elevating the rich, further oppressing the poor, and fueling corruption cycles. In his Guardian article, Haiti and The Failed Promise of US Aid, Jacob Kushner investigated failures of foreign aid to Haiti over four decades of Hillary and Bill Clinton’s involvement in “combining foreign aid with diplomacy.”

“While local NGOs lack resources and funds for major projects, large aid organizations don’t necessarily always succeed,” ICAN’s Program Director, Innovative Peace Fund, France Bognon says INGOs’ cumbersome grant application process hinder local NGOs’ funding because of their limited resources.
Zoom meeting on proposal writing for SMART75 members was hosted by AWAW on 14th May 2020 from 11.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa facilitated the session

Few Screenshots of social media posts
A Special thanks to our donors, for their generosity without which we would not have been able to continue our journey thus far.

Cheers,

The Team
Association of War Affected Women