Road to Reconciliation, Justice, Hope, Dignity and Strong Democratic Institutions in Sri Lanka – Celebrating the Pluralistic and Diverse Nature of the Republic – With Special emphasis on Gender Equality

- Enhancing Women’s Skills on Mediation and Conflict Transformation for Reconciliation Processes
- Launch of Sri Lanka Women Mediators Network
- She Builds Peace Campaign – Sri Lanka
- Other highlights of the year
- Global involvements

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.

CONTACT US

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Road to Reconciliation, Justice, Hope, Dignity and Strong Democratic Institutions in Sri Lanka – Celebrating the Pluralistic and Diverse Nature of the Republic – With Special emphasis on Gender Equality

Funded by International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)

Activities carried out under this project

- Identified & selected potential women who can lead the peer committees and conducted a two day familiarizing workshop with the selected women leaders
- Established 6 peer committees
- Conducted monthly peer committee meetings and AWAW visited each peer committee twice
- Conducted two one day workshops and a training of trainers on detecting early warning signs for radicalization and resilience building
- Enabled the disclose for the establishment of Sri Lankan Collective for Consensus (SLCC)
- Hosted zoom meetings with SLCC and Awakened Citizens
- Conducted a one day workshop with academics on ways and means of popularizing the Pluralistic & diverse nature of the republic” (Constitutional Inputs Document)
- Conducted a two day validation consultation with civil society actors
- Conducted two one day workshops to determine research areas and methodologies
- Conducted four 4 day field research on government service delivery
- Conducted a three day workshop to prepare the report with the research findings and the report titled “Access to Services, Identity Politics and Challenges for Social Harmony in the Sri Lankan Periphery” is now available on our website
MONTHLY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE PEER COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ANURADHAPURA, PUTTALAM, HAMBANTOTA, TRINCOMALEE, MONARAGALA & KURUNEGALA
2 ONE DAY WORKSHOPS ON DETECTING EARLY WARNING SIGNS FOR RADICALIZATION AND RESILIENCE BUILDING

April 24th 2021 at Palmyrah House, Mannar

31st July 2021 at East Lagoon, Batticaloa

ONE DAY TRAINING OF TRAINERS IN BATTICALOA ON DETECTING EARLY WARNING SIGNS FOR RADICALIZATION AND RESILIENCE BUILDING – November 21st 2021 at Riveira Resort, Batticaloa
Sri Lankan Collective for Consensus

The genesis of the Sri Lankan Collective for Consensus (SLCC) was on June 23, 2021. This followed two earlier consultations in Kandy assembled by AWAW from among civil society leaders who were actively involved in dialogue on Conflict Transformation processes for over the past two decades. In depth discussion took place on the lessons learned on past reconciliation initiatives on what was right and what went wrong, what should have been done better and what should have been avoided. A 2-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 on November 18 & 19, 2020. The second 2-day consultation on Celebrating Pluralism and Diversity - Civil Society Devising Strategy was held on March 11 & 12, 2021.

The identity of SLCC was defined as follows:

We are a group of individuals drawn from multiple sectors of society, religion, academia and non-governmental organizations who are committed to a Sri Lanka that is founded on ideals of pluralistic coexistence, human rights and justice.

The focus of the members was to remain a “Collective” and not take a critical form into another NGO, but move forward to deal with the current Sri Lankan realities in a holistic manner.

SUCCESS STORIES OF SLCC

- We have been invited to be consultants on reconciliation and SDG16 Peace, Justice & Strong institutions
- Government now is using the word “Dialogue” instead of meeting
- Bringing the NGO secretariat under the Foreign Ministry (Earlier was under the Defense Ministry)
- Ven Kalupahana Piyarathana Thero member of SLCC appointed to the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka as a commissioner
- When SLCC met with the ministerial subcommittee on November 27, a case involving ten persons arrested under the PTA was highlighted by us as an example of unfair detention and remand. We are pleased that on December 8, the 10 persons who were being legally represented in the court by one of our members were granted bail after 7 months in remand. This was at the Magistrate’s Court Valaichchenai on the instructions and recommendation of the Attorney General’s office. As we had taken this case as an example during our discussion, the release of the detainees from remand may be a coincidence or consequence of SLCC’s discussion. In either event we are happy that this has been done.

SLCC have been able to capture the headlines of leading newspapers for the past 6 months
Apart from the above, periodic zoom meetings were held with the members of SLCC.

TWO DAY CONSULTATION WITH KEY CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS TO VALIDATE THE “THE PLURALISTIC & DIVERSE NATURE OF THE REPUBLIC” DOCUMENT BEFORE SHARING –
March 10th & 11th 2021 at Amaya Hills, Kandy
We also convened zoom meetings with the participants of 2020 People to people dialogue series who now call themselves “Awakened citizens” who come from all parts of the country and all ethnic and faiths, who are academics, professionals, civil society leaders, women leaders and youth.
ZOOM WEBINAR BY AWAKENED CITIZENS

GOOD PRACTICES OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS DURING THE PANDEMIC

Prof. K. Tudor Silva  
Professor Emeritus  
University of Peradeniya

Dr. Ramesh Ramasamy  
Senior Lecturer (Political Sc)  
University of Peradeniya

Dr. Nafeel Zawahir  
Senior Lecturer (Arabic & IS)  
University of Peradeniya

Ms. Sarah Arumugam  
Attorney-at-Law

Thursday 23rd September 2021  
From 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm

Webinar ID: 817 3847 5778  
Passcode: 923139

ASSOCIATION OF WAR AFFECTED WOMEN

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ASSOCIATION OF WAR AFFECTED WOMEN

ZOOM WEBINAR BY AWAKENED CITIZENS
HOW TO DEAL WITH THE PANDEMIC - WHAT OUR RELIGIONS SAY

Panelist
Ven. Bhikkhuni Kalaganwatte Padmananda
Chief Priest Sahagowataramaya &
Chandrodya Bilingual Educational Institute

Panelist
Rev. Fr. Mahesh Hemachandra
Diocese of Kurunagala
Church of Ceylon (Anglican Church)

Panelist
Brammari Somasundaram Tiliyagarajah Kurukkal
President
All Ceylon United Hindu Priests Society
Puttalam

Panelist
Mudali M. Y. Hathyuthullah (Neethvi, SLPS)
Secretary, United Religious Initiative
Trincomalee

Moderator
Prof. Kalinga Tudor Silva
Professor Emeritus
University of Peradeniya

Monday 27th September 2021
From 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm
Webinar ID: 894 6798 1996
Passcode: 220229

Panelist
Ven. Kalupahan Priyathana Thero
Convener
Inter Religious Alliance for National Unity

Panelist
Rev. Fr. P. Dileep Eranda
Administrative Secretary
Diocese
Anuradhapura

Panelist
Mudali A.A. Azwar (BA)
Secretary
Inter Religious Forum
Ampara

Moderator
Prof. Kalinga Tudor Silva
Professor Emeritus
Department of Sociology
University of Peradeniya

Wednesday 29th September 2021
From 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm
Webinar ID: 878 8933 5726
Passcode: 839145
ONE DAY WORKSHOP WITH ACADEMICS IN KANDY ON WAYS & MEANS OF POPULARIZING “THE PLURALISTIC & DIVERSE NATURE OF THE REPUBLIC” TO BE SHARED WITH LEADERS OF DIVERSE SECTORS – February 10th 2021 at Mahaweli Reach Hotel, Kandy
ONE DAY WORKSHOP TO SELECT THE AREAS TO CONDUCT THE RESEARCH AND DISCUSS ABOUT THE RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES – February 5th 2021 at Riverdale Hotel, Kandy

ONE DAY WORKSHOP ON RESEARCH METHODOLOGY – February 26th 2021 at Riverdale Hotel, Kandy

FOUR 4 DAY FIELD RESEARCH TRIPS ON GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY

BATTICALOA – March 25th to 28th 2021
VAVUNIYA – July 15th to 18th 2021

PUTTALAM – October 5th to 8th 2021
3 DAY WORKSHOP TO PREPARE THE REPORT BASED ON THE RESEARCH FINDINGS TO BE SHARED WITH THE GOVERNMENT & THE PUBLIC – November 23rd to 25th at Cinnamon Citadel, Kandy

The report titled “Access to Services, Identity Politics and Challenges for Social Harmony in the Sri Lankan Periphery” is now available in our website.
Enhancing Women’s Skills on Mediation and Conflict Transformation for Reconciliation Processes

Women Mediators across the Commonwealth Funded by Conciliation Resources

Rapid training program on Negotiation and negotiation concepts, skills and attitudes was held successfully on 8th January 2021 Cinnamon Citadel Hotel, Kandy

Two day training on Process Design: Topics and links between tracks was held successfully on the 9th and 10th of January at Cinnamon Citadel Kandy
The launch of Sri Lanka Women Mediators Network was successfully held on Tuesday the 30th of March 2021 at Amaya Hills, Kandy from 10.00 a.m. to 02.00 p.m.

High Court Judge Madam Kusala Sarojini Weerawardena graced the occasion as the chief guest. Influential dignitaries such as Hon. Governor, former minister of women, former minister of housing, parliament members, provincial council and local level women politicians, Members of SMART 75 and TEAM1325 attended the event.
“SHE BUILDS PEACE” campaign was held successfully on Wednesday 3rd November 2021 at the peer committee districts namely Anuradhapura, Puttalam, Hambantota, Trincomalee and Monaragala and was held on Thursday 4th November 2021 at Kurunegala. AAWW visited the Anuradhapura campaign launch.
GENDER JUSTICE AND SECURITY HUB
London School of Economics

AWAW conducted 12 interviews related to Return Migration. These interviews were carried out as a part of the Project 3 - GCRF Hub in order to examine the gendered return migration to post-conflict or conflicted regions, their motivations of return, expectation and experiences of return migration, to assess how gendered return migration can contribute to the local economy, to assess challenges related to return and resettlement and so on. The interviews were carried out in the month of March 2021.

UN PEACEBUILDING FUND
GNWP - UN Women

AWAW carried out interviews with the partners of UN Peacebuilding fund. The study aimed to explore the views and opinions of grassroots organisations on themes related to peacebuilding and women’s role in peacebuilding. The Peacebuilding Fund wanted to find out more about what has been achieved, lessons learned, challenges and recommendations for future projects in this field. The interviews were carried out in the month of April 2021.

ESTABLISHMENT OF 25 WOMEN POLITICAL LEADER’S CAUCUSES

AWAW took leadership in establishing women leader’s caucuses in all 25 districts of Sri Lanka. We now have 25 active WhatsApp groups consisting of women leaders who come from diverse ethnic, religious and political affiliations.

OUR COVID-19 RESPONSES

- AWAW donated Rupees one million to the Kandy General Hospital on 20th May 2021 to be used for the purchase of essential equipment for the treatment of Covid-19 patients in Kandy Teaching Hospital
- Donation was made for distribution of dry rations for quarantined families

Other donations

- AWAW donated Rupees one hundred thousand for purchasing furniture and basic stationery items for a newly built preschool in Columbuthurai, Jaffna
- Donation was made towards the seminar which was held for the students of Kandy division police
Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa, Chair of AWAW was a speaker at “Warfare & Peacemaking in the 21st Century: who’s taking responsibility to protect and promote peace?”
Hosted by the Centre for Women, Peace and Security of LSE
Held on 19th January 2021 from 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm Sri Lankan time

Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa, Chair of AWAW was a speaker in the virtual forum: From victims to activists for Justice and Peace: A transnational forum on generating justice in transition
Held on 19th January 2021 from 9.30 pm to 11 pm Sri Lankan time
Organized by of Justicia, Derechos Humanos & Justicia, A.C. (JDHG) and SIWA: Artisans of Peace and Justice, with the invaluable support of ICAN’s Innovative Peace fund

Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa, chair of AWAW also participated in the CSW Parallel event – SOAR with Women Peacebuilders: She builds peace campaign
Held on 23rd March 2021 at 6.30 pm SL time

Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa was a panelist: N Peace Hybrid Exhibition: Women, Peace & Security in an Era of Fragility
Held on 30th March 2021 at 4.30 pm SL time

Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa, chair of AWAW participated in the World Federation of United Nations Association’s monthly CSO Dialogues with the President of the Security Council, featuring Ambassador Nicolas de Rivière of France
Held on 6th July 2021 at 1.30 am to 2.30 am SL time
Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa, chair of AWAW was a panelist at the South Asian Conference on “Solidarity for advancing WPS Agenda” Held on 5th August 2021 from 10.45 am to 12.15 pm SL time

Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa, chair of AWAW was a panelist at the panel Women and Peacebuilding in South Asia Held on 18th December 2021 from 5 pm to 6.30 pm Sri Lankan Organized by WISCOMP
WE THANK ALL OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS FOR A SUCCESSFUL AND PRODUCTIVE YEAR

International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)
WMC – Conciliation Resources
London School of Economics (LSE)

AWAW Team wishes you a Merry Christmas & a Peaceful Prosperous New Year!