

# 2022



Association of War Affected Women

## NEWSLETTER



*Association of War Affected Women*



Association of War Affected Women

**AWAW**

## 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.**

- **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)
- **Resilience through innovation and creativity - Women taking leadership**  
Funded by Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)
- **Resilience through innovation and creativity - Women taking leadership**  
Funded by London School of Economics (LSE)
- **Other highlights of the year**
- **Global involvements**

## **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)

A TWO-DAY WORKSHOP FOR SHARING AND LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER, TO FAMILIARIZE THE SELECTED 6 WOMEN LEADERS TO LEAD THE PEER COMMITTEES



MONTHLY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE PEER COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN JAFFNA, MULAITIVU, NUWARA ELIYA, BADULLA, RATNAPURA AND GALLE



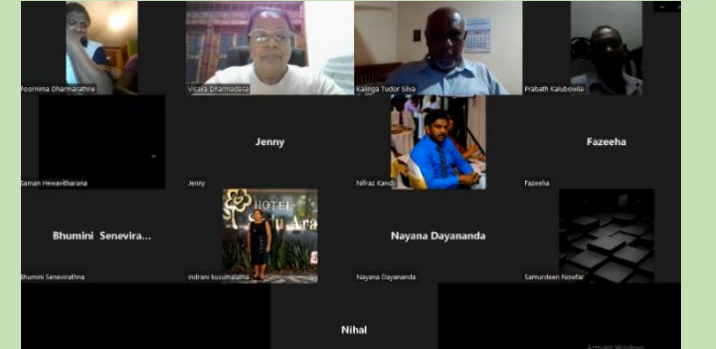
TWO-DAY CONSULTATION WORKSHOP WITH THE KEY CIVIL SOCIETY TO ENHANCE AND VALIDATE THE FINDINGS OF RESEARCH FINDINGS ON THE STUDY “ACCESS TO SERVICES, IDENTITY POLITICS AND CHALLENGES FOR SOCIAL HARMONY IN THE SRI LANKAN PERIPHERY



FOUR ONE DAY WORKSHOPS WITH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO DISSEMINATE THE RESEARCH FINDINGS



PERIODIC ZOOM MEETINGS WERE HELD WITH THE MEMBERS OF AWAKENED CITIZENS



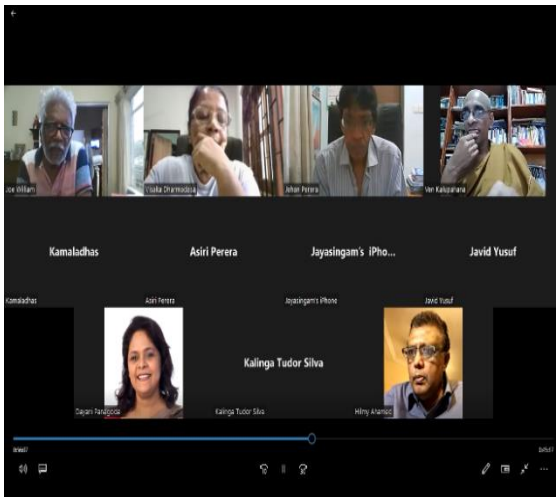
**SRI LANKAN COLLECTIVE FOR CONSENSUS**  
*(a group of individuals drawn from multiple sectors of society, religion, academia and non-governmental organizations who are committed to a Sri Lanka that is founded on ideals of pluralistic coexistence, human rights and justice)*

Meeting with the President His Excellency Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe



SLCC also had meetings with Former Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Prof. G.L. Peiris, Hon. Minister of Public Security, Mr. Tiran Alles, Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ali Sabri and Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

PERIODIC ZOOM MEETINGS WERE HELD WITH THE MEMBERS OF SLCC



**FOUR ONE DAY WORKSHOPS TO DISSEMINATE THE RESEARCH FINDINGS ON THE STUDY "ACCESS TO SERVICES, IDENTITY POLITICS AND CHALLENGES FOR SOCIAL HARMONY IN THE SRI LANKAN PERIPHERY" WITH RELIGIOUS LEADERS, ACADEMICS, PROFESSIONALS, TRADE UNION LEADERS, CIVIL SOCIETY AND WOMEN LEADERS**



**ONE DAY DISCUSSION ON THE UNITY SYMPOSIUM "ACCEPTING DIVERSITY & WORKING FOR EQUALITY"**



**DISCUSSION ON SCRIPT WRITING FOR THE DOCUMENTARY OF "EVOLUTION OF INTERCOMMUNITY HARMONY IN SRI LANKA"**



**ONE DAY UNITY SYMPOSIUM UNDER THE THEME "ACCEPTING DIVERSITY & WORKING FOR EQUALITY"**



DISTRIBUTED DIARIES WITH THE LOGO AND SLOGAN "UNITYINDIVERSITY"

WE ALSO CREATED A YOUTUBE CHANNEL AND A FACEBOOK PAGE "ACCEPTING DIVERSITY AND WORKING FOR EQUALITY"



### GENDER JUSTICE AND SECURITY HUB

Funded by London School of Economics

- Post Covid market surveys were carried out in Kandy, Batticaloa and Colombo to ascertain the situation of handicraft businesses.
- The crafts women of Kandy involved in Handloom weaving and Batik took part in a six days training

## RESILIENCE THROUGH INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY - WOMEN TAKING LEADERSHIP

Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) - Emergency Response Fund

### ONE DAY ENTREPRENEUR AWARENESS AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP



### ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

- Handloom Weaving - Batticaloa & Mannar
- Fishing, food processing and food preservation – Puttalam
- Food processing – Hambantota
- Moringa leaf powder production and lime cultivation – Anuradhapura
- Agriculture and gardening – Peanut and guava cultivation – Badulla & Kurunegala



**RESILIENCE THROUGH INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY - WOMEN TAKING LEADERSHIP**  
 Funded by London School of Economics (LSE)- Impact Fund

- ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS**
- Basket weaving – Mannar
  - Soap manufacturing – Kandy
  - Homemade wine – Matara
  - Vegetables and herbs cultivation in polytunnels – Nuwara Eliya



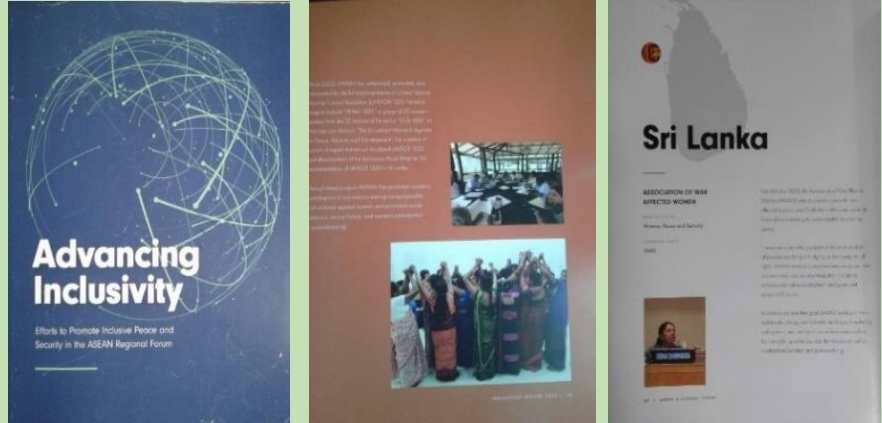
*Other highlights of the year & Global Involvements*

We carried out an island wide campaign calling upon blessings for our country for a better tomorrow for all us. To invoke the blessings of God for the rulers to get wisdom and bring the best in the country without allowing people to suffer in their daily life

Met the Mahanayake of Asgiriya and Malwathu Chapters to speak to them regarding the current economic crisis of Sri Lanka



Work of AWAW highlighted in the Advancing Inclusivity magazine



Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa, Chair of AWAW won an award at the Human Rights Salutation 2022 for her commitment in defending the rights of the War Affected Women and becoming a voice for the voiceless. Organized by the Human Rights Office



Certificate distribution ceremony of Pathway to change program

Panel discussion focused on role of civil society in economic development, peacebuilding, and national reconciliation efforts at the national stakeholder networking event



- Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa, chair of AWAW was a speaker at the virtual meeting “Civic Space and Democracy in Sri Lanka”
- She was also a speaker at the zoom conference on “The Crisis in Sri Lanka”
- She was one of the panelists at Online panel event “Promoting equal rights and women’s participation towards peace”
- Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa chaired the Jury panel for Geneva Centre's Human Rights Recognition Awards (HRRRA) 2022



AWAW in the Commonwealth Women Forum in Kigali, Rwanda



AWAW at a two-day conference in Kathmandu



ASSOCIATION OF WAR AFFECTED WOMEN

Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa took part in the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) Forum in Maldives



International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) Forum in Maldives with Hon. Minister

Women Peace & Security conference held in Abu Dhabi



“Women as peacebuilders” online workshop



Keynote speaker at the virtual Speaker Series session on Women, Peace, and Security

**Women Peacemakers Before and After 1325:**  
*Learning Process on the Role of Women Peacemakers Globally*

Organized by the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies & the Center for Foreign Policy Studies  
Co-sponsored by the United Nations Association of the USA and Inclusive Security

**Visaka Dharmadasa**  
Founder and Chair of Association of War Affected Women and Parents of Servicemen Missing in Action

November 10th, 12:00 pm - 13:30 pm EST  
Discussion on the implementation of UN Resolution 1325 and its implications in Sri Lanka

Panelist at the panel for the 4th International Conference on Action with Women and Peace, held in Seoul, South Korea

The 4th International Conference on Action with Women and Peace  
제4차 여성과 함께하는 평화 국제회의





# WE THANK ALL OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS FOR A SUCCESSFUL AND PRODUCTIVE YEAR

International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)

Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)

London School of Economics (LSE)

