

# 2023



## 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.**

- **Facilitated Dialogue between Ven. Buddhist monks and Tamil Diaspora towards reconciliation and non-recurrence in Nagarkot, Nepal**
- **Gender, Justice and Security Hub – Culture and Conflict Project**
- **She Builds Peace Campaign**
- **Other highlights**
- **Global involvements**

## **CONTACT US**

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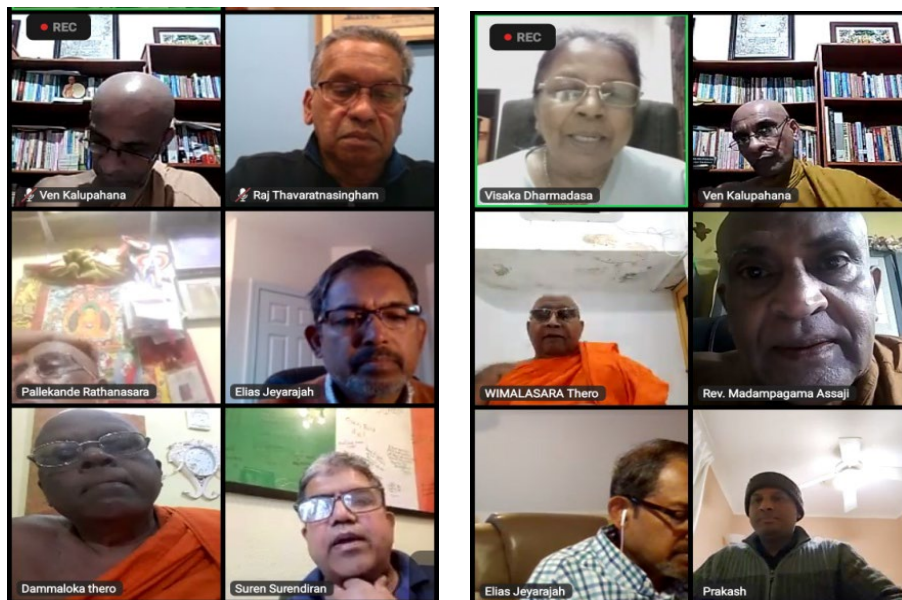
## Facilitated Dialogue between Ven. Buddhist monks and Tamil Diaspora towards reconciliation and non-recurrence in Nagarkot, Nepal

Funded by: The Swiss Confederation, represented by the Swiss Federal of Foreign Affairs



Building upon the decades of trust, 7 Buddhist monks from all chapters and 7 diaspora individuals from different countries was brought in for a facilitated dialogue, with the aim of fostering greater collaboration and understanding between the Maha sangha and the diaspora groups, which was successful beyond our expectations and the group was able to come up with "**Himalaya Declaration**, "A Sri Lanka where every individual can live peacefully with dignity, trust, and no fear or suspicion, enjoying equal rights." which outlines a shared vision for promoting peace, harmony, and reconciliation as well economic recovery in Sri Lanka.

### Periodic zoom meetings with Nagarkot Dialogue Team



**Sangha for Better Sri Lanka (SBSL) and Global Tamil Forum (GTF) meeting the Most Venerable Mahanayake Theros of Asgiriya and Malwatte Chapters**



**Handing over the "Himalaya Declaration" to the H.E. President Ranil Wickramasinghe and Her Excellency President Chandrika Kumaratunga**





Launching Himalaya Declaration – Press Conference



Meeting religious leaders of all faiths





Meeting with the Hon. Speaker and Members of the Parliament



Meeting with the Diplomatic Community



Meeting with Civil Society Leaders





**Gender, Justice & Security Hub – Culture & Conflict Project**  
*Funded by London School of Economics*

**Training sessions to enhance basket weaving skills of women of Mannar**



**Training sessions to enhance handloom weaving skills of women of Batticaloa**



**“A TASTE OF SRI LANKA’S DIVERSITY”**  
**Panel discussion, mini exhibition & sale**





**She Builds Peace Campaign**  
*Funded by International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)*



*Other highlights of the year & Global Involvements*



Visaka Dharmadasa, chair of AWAW participated at the Canadian Partners Forum held in Colombo in February



**“Craft as a medium for peace building; building back better the societies in South Asia – that women live, work and belong to”**

CSW Side event In New York



Visaka Dharmadasa, chair of AWAW was a speaker at the IPI - Women’s Agency in Post Conflict Reconciliation held in March in New York



- Visaka Dharmadasa attended the 5th Capital-Level Meeting of the WPS Focal Points Network held in Washington DC, USA in June
- She also participated at the Third United Nations High Level Conference on Counter Terrorism held in UNHQ in New York in June. She was a speaker at the Session IV: Strengthening Capacity Building Programmes – Making Them Fit for Purpose to Meet Resilience Gaps



Visaka Dharmadasa at Religious Inclusion and Peacebuilding in the World the Perspectives of Muslims Forum held in Ache, Indonesia in October



- Visaka Dharmadasa also participated at the Gender Justice & Security Hub Convention held in Bogota and Cartagena, Colombia in July



Good to connect today with civil society reps to discuss issues & concerns, including the need for consultations with civil society before moving forward with any pending legislation, the importance of trust building measures before initiating a truth and reconciliation process, and the fundamental values of freedom of expression and assembly.



Visaka Dharmadasa at GPPAC Regional Steering Group Meeting held in Kathmandu in September



6:50 pm · 12 Jul 23 · 1,742 Views

Visaka Dharmadasa together with the other members of Sri Lanka Collective for Consensus participated at the meetings with the Secretariat of TRC to discuss the proposed TRC Framework and the ONUR Bill



- She also presented at the Gender Equality Network Forum via zoom in October
- She also participated in the Asia Pacific Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum on environment held in Colombo in October

Sangha for Better Sri Lanka (SBSL) in collaboration with Association of War Affected Women, conducted a two-day workshop with Women clergy of all faiths in October on “Challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> Century and Role of Religious Leaders”



- Visaka Dharmadasa participated at the reception to recognize ties between Sri Lankans and Americans of Sri Lankan origin – 75 years of people, progress and partnerships in the U.S – Sri Lanka relationship at the American Center US Embassy in December
- She also attended the reception to mark the 16 days of Activism against Gender based violence at the official residence of Canadian High Commissioner in December
- She participated at the ICRC Global Family Conference held in Colombo in December

Visaka Dharmadasa created a WhatsApp group “Women for Peace South Asia, creating a space to dialogue and discuss the current situation and how best we can strategize for the new and emerging issues and also the broader discourse of Women Peace and Security Agenda





Association of War Affected Women

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

The Swiss Confederation, represented by the Swiss Federal of  
Foreign Affairs

London School of Economics (LSE)

International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)

