

The Human Rights Commission Commemorates the International Women's Day, 2022

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) commemorated the International Women's day – 2022, themed “Gender Equality today for a Sustainable Tomorrow” on the 08th of March 2022 at the District Secretariat Auditorium of Nuwara Eliya. The Women's day commemoration of this year particularly focused on women of the plantation sector of Sri Lanka. The predominant objective of the programme was to address the range of human rights violations that plantation sector women face at home, workplace and in the society. The event was graced by the chief guest, His Excellency S.E. Schalk, the High Commissioner of South Africa to Sri Lanka and Maldives and Justice (Retired) Rohini Marasinghe, Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, along with the Commissioners, Venerable Kalupahana Piyarathana Thero, Dr. Vijitha Nanayakkara, Dr. M.H. Nimal Karunasiri, and Ms. Anusuya Shanmuganathan. Further, the officers of the Commission participated in the commemoration. There were one hundred and fifty participants from Government offices, Sri Lanka Police, Civil Society Organizations and Women leaders representing the female plantation workers participated at this event.

The Chairperson delivered her opening remarks by highlighting the crucial aspects that warrant particular consideration for upholding women's rights. Meanwhile, His Excellency S.E. Schalk, the High Commissioner of South Africa to Sri Lanka and Maldives, addressed the gathering with his keynote speech that emphasized the importance of sustaining gender equality. Thereafter, Mr. K.K. Villavarajan, Legal Officer of the HRCSL explained the significance of Women's day 2022 with special focus on the plantation sector. Ms. Menaka Herath, the Director of Education and Research Division presented on the powers, functions and complaint procedures of the HRCSL. A discussion was also held with the invitees and representatives for the purpose of ascertaining the issues faced by female plantation workers. Finally, the programme proceedings were successfully concluded with the deliverance of the vote of thanks by Ms. Anusuya Shanmuganathan, a Commissioner of the HRCSL.



Justice (Retired) Rohini Marasinghe – Chairperson, HRCSL delivering her Open remarks



His Excellency S.E. Schalk, the High Commissioner for South Africa to Sri Lanka and Maldives delivering his Keynote speech



A Woman Police officer during the discussion



A participant during the discussion



Ms. Anusuya Shanmuganathan delivering the vote of thanks



The Head table



The Audience