

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka Hosts a Mobile Service on Analaitivu Island.

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) Jaffna Regional Office conducted a mobile service on Analaitivu Island on 29th August 2024. The primary objective of this Mobile service was to provide assistance to access the services from the state institutions, ensure residents' economic, social, and cultural rights, and raise awareness in obtaining proper service from the state institutions.

Analaitivu Island, situated 36 kilometers west of Jaffna, is part of the Kayts Divisional Secretariat in Jaffna District, with a combined population of approximately 2,000 spread across two GN Divisions. Despite its rich cultural heritage, Analaitivu faces significant challenges due to its isolation, primarily caused by the absence of a causeway. Residents rely on ferry service from Kayts on Velanaitivu Island for connectivity with the mainland.

The HRCSL's mobile service opened up several critical issues faced by the island's residents. In the maritime industry, concerns included difficulties with boat registration, damage to fishing nets by drawlers, and the environmental impact of sea cucumber farms. The education sector is grappling with crises such as principal vacancies and teacher attendance issues. Health services on the island are inadequate, with a pressing need for night services and additional staff. A majority of the population lacks access to clean water supplies, exacerbating health concerns.

Transportation remains a significant challenge, with insufficient public transport options available for residents. Security issues have also come to the forefront, primarily due to the lack of police presence in the island and a reported rise in incidents such as thefts.

Through this initiative, the HRCSL aimed to enhance public access to essential services, safeguard residents' rights, and raise awareness to ensure better engagement with state institutions. By bringing these services directly to Analaitivu via the mobile service, the HRCSL has taken a crucial step in addressing the challenges faced by in this isolated island community.

