## Integrating Human Rights and Child Rights to School Curricula.

On August 20, 2024, a pivotal meeting was convened at the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) to discuss the integration of Human Rights and Child Rights into the Sri Lankan school curricula. Key stakeholders, including Additional Secretaries and representatives from the Ministry of Education (MOE) and the Director General, Deputy Director Generals and representatives from the National Institute of Education (NIE) and the participated in the discussion.

The meeting began with opening remarks from Justice L. T. B. Dehideniya, Chairperson of the



HRCSL, who highlighted a pressing issue in Sri Lanka: the lack of public awareness about Human Rights and the available redress in violations. case of **Justice** Dehideniya stressed that collaborative effort between the **HRCSL** NIE, and aimed integrating Human Rights education into the school

curricula, would help foster a culture of Human Rights among future generations.

The NIE presented its ongoing efforts, including the National Education Policy Framework (NEPF) 2023 - 2033, which addresses several key educational concerns, such as the need for inclusive learning to support students with special needs. The curricula are also undergoing a transformation to



reduce the focus on exams and shift towards problem - based and activity- based learning.



Both the HRCSL and NIE are committed to advancing these efforts through ongoing collaboration and dialogue. This partnership aims to promote and protect Child Rights by incorporating them into educational structures, fostering a more inclusive, rights-aware society, and ensuring long-term

sustainability by strengthening the foundation of Human Rights knowledge within the education system.

This initiative is being carried out by the Child Rights Unit (CRU) of the HRCSL under the Support to Justice Sector (JURE) Project, funded by UNICEF Sri Lanka. Through this collaboration, the project is expected to lay the groundwork for a more inclusive, aware, and rights-respecting society in Sri Lanka.

