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இலங்கை மனித உரிமைகள் ஆணைக்குழு
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

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Press Notice

International Human Rights Day 2024

International Human Rights Day, observed annually on 10 December, marks the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. The United Nations theme in 2024 for International Human Rights Day was “Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now”, emphasising the importance and relevance of human rights in our everyday lives and to our collective futures.

On 10 December 2024, the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) held a ceremony at the BMICH, under the patronage of Justice L.T.B. Dehideniya, Chairman of the HRCSL, and other commissioners in attendance. Prof. Deepika Udagama, Chair Professor of Law at the University of Peradeniya, attended the ceremony as Chief Guest and delivered the keynote speech on “Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now”. Mr. Marc-Andre Franche, the UN Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka and the Guest of Honour, addressed the gathering on the “UN’s role in promoting and protecting human rights in Sri Lanka”.

At the event, the HRCSL launched reports and general guidelines and recommendations on significant and relevant areas including the status of “manpower” workers in Free Trade Zones, the public sector employment of persons with disabilities, and the protection of human rights defenders. It also launched a compilation of the HRCSL’s key recommendations in 2024.

The regional-level celebrations were organised by HRCSL Regional Offices across Sri Lanka, having engaged local communities over a variety of discussions on the importance of human rights. These events emphasised the significance of human rights at the local levels. Events were held in the Regional Offices of Ampara, Anuradhapura, Badulla, Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kalmunai, Kandy, Matara, Trincomalee and Vavuniya. An Event was also held in the Sub-Offices in Nuwara Eliya. The Chairman of HRCSL Justice L.T.B. Dehideniya, together with Commissioner Mr. Nimal G. Punchihewa, and Secretary Mr. Ranjith Uyangoda attended the event organised by the Kandy Regional Office on 12 December 2024 at the Matala Divisional Secretariat Auditorium. Commissioner Mr. Nimal G. Punchihewa and Secretary Mr. Ranjith Uyangoda also attended the event organised by the Ampara Regional Office on 13 December 2024 at the Dehiattakanditiya Mahaweli Shalika Hall.

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