

SUMMARY REPORT PROVIDED BY THE MINISTRY OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT & WOMEN'S AFFAIRS

Development of Policies, laws and regulations on women's rights

- The Constitution of 1978- has provisions on promoting and protecting rights of women and children.
- Sri Lanka has ratified the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1980.
- Drafted the five year women's action plan (2011-2015) and included the recommendations under Security Council Resolution 1325.
- Discussions to reconsider the punishment mechanism on the offences set out in the Penal Code.
- Women's Charter.
- Campaign against rape, incest and teenage pregnancies.
- Drafted the Women's Commission Bill.
- Diploma Course on Politics to motivate women in to Politics.
- Forum discussion on the CEDAW study. Implementation of CEDAW recommendations. Establishing of government sponsored shelter for victims of violence.
- Request to repeal the section 03 in the Land Development Ordinance to remove discrimination against women.
- Domestic Violence Act, No. 34 of 2005 and litigation under the Act.
- Setting up of a separate Children's and Women's Desk in Police Stations to ensure access to justice to each and every woman.
- 16 days Programme of Commemorating the International Day for Preventing Violence Against Women.
- Setting up of Complaint Centre attached to the Ministry which functions as coordinating body to resolve violence against women.
- Setting up Working Committees in places of employment by placing a gender focal point in each institution to ensure gender equality. Steps have already been taken to nominate 39 officers as Gender Focal Points.
- Established a Committee on prevention of sexual harassment against women at work place.
- Awareness programmes to community through the field officers directly linked to the ministry (Women Development officers, Child Rights Promotion Officers, Early Childhood Development Officers and Relief Sisters) available at each Divisional Secretariat level on women's rights, children's rights and protection against violence.
- Amendments to the Penal Code in 1995, 2005, 2006 to include grave sexual abuse and other similar offences against women.
- Ministry has commenced the printing of the Gender Glossary which is containing information of organizations and NGOs, which are offering their services to women and children.
- Design and printing of a booklet on Domestic Violence Act.

- Printing a booklet on 1325 Resolution.
- Progress of Printing Gender Glossary.
- Proposed to appoint 53 female graduates as Gender Focal Points at Ministerial level.
- Launched the national campaign to stop rape in Sri Lanka.
- Introduced new programme named "Men too can make a change" to prevent Violence Against Women with the participation of men.
- Action has taken to establish data base on widows.
- Policy formulated to promote the livelihood development of widows.
- A handbook for judicial sector on Law relating to Violence Against Women.