The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka is an independent Commission, which was set up to promote and protect human rights in the country. HRCSL Act No. 21 of 1996 spells out its powers and functions. 10 Regional Offices are established to carry out the work of the Commission.

Our vision is to ensure human rights for all, and promote and protect the rule of law

Our mission is to develop a better human rights culture in Sri Lanka through protecting and promoting human rights for all in law, policy and in practice, adhering to universally recognized human rights norms and principles with a special emphasis on the fundamental rights guaranteed under the Sri Lankan Constitution for the citizens of Sri Lanka, with the coordination and corporation of all stakeholders that work towards protecting and promoting human rights for all.

To discharge its functions, the HRCSL has been conferred with broad powers including the following:

I. To investigate into violations of fundamental rights;
II. To intervene in any court proceedings relating to violations of fundamental rights, pending before any court, with the permission of such court;
III. To monitor the welfare of detainees, by regular inspections of places of detention;
IV. To undertake research on human rights issues, and to conduct public education programmes to disseminate and distribute the results of such research;
V. To take steps as, may be directed by the Supreme court, in respect of any matter referred to the Commission by the Supreme Court;
VI. To do all such other things as are necessary or conducive to the discharge of the HRCSL's functions.

(Article 11 of the HRCSL Act No.21 of 1996)

Note: Every offence of contempt committed against, or in disregard of, the authority of the Commission shall be punishable by the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka. (Article 21 of the HRCSL Act)
Complaints Procedure

(a) What Type of a Complaint Can a Person forward to the Commission?
Violations or imminent violations of fundamental rights guaranteed by Chapter III of the Constitution (1978)

(b) What Information should be included in a Complaint?
- What rights have been violated;
- Whose rights have been violated;
- Who is responsible for the violation/s;
- In what manner were the rights violated;
- Where and when did the violation take place;
- Remedies you seek for.

(c) Timeframe to submit a complaint
Complaints should be submitted within three months of the alleged violation.

(d) Who can make a Complaint to the Commission?
- An aggrieved person / group of persons or
- A person / group of persons acting on behalf of an aggrieved person or a group of persons

(e) Can the Commission Investigate into Matters Without Receiving any Complaints?
Yes. The Commission can investigate and inquire into fundamental rights violations on its own motion.

(f) Can the Supreme Court Direct Complaints to the Commission to Investigate and Report?
Yes. Sometimes the Supreme Court directs complaints to the HRCSL to inquire into and report.

How are Complaints Resolved?

If the complaint does not fall within the Commission’s mandate it will be rejected.
If it falls within the Commission’s mandate;
A preliminary investigation is conducted to determine whether there are enough grounds to proceed with the case or not.
The case will be examined by,
- Calling the Petitioner
- Calling for a report from the Respondent /s

If there is a prima facie case;
Inquire into the matter and attempt to resolve through conciliation / mediation, or,
If conciliation / or mediation fails a recommendation can be made to relevant authorities.

HRC SL REGIONAL OFFICES

Kandy
167, Vihara Mawatha, Malgampola, Kandy
081-2234600
hrckandy1@slinet.lk

Matara
15, Kalidasa Road, Matara.
041-2226533
hrcmatara@slinet.lk

Batticaloa
24, Sinna Uppodi, Batticaloa
065-2224420
hrcbatt@slinet.lk

Anuradhapura
623/20 E, Freeman Mawatha, Anuradhapura
025-2234601
hrcanur@slinet.lk

Trincomalee
227, Main Street, Trincomalee
026-2226607
hrctrin@slinet.lk

Vavuniya
150, Station Road, Vavurapuliyankulam, Vavuniya
024-2222029
hrcvavuniya@slinet.lk

Badulla
19/2B Badulupitiya Road, Badulla
055-229634
hrcbad@slinet.lk

Ampara
D 768/1, Pandukhabaya Mawatha, Ampara
063-222340
hrcamp@slinet.lk

Kalmunai
No.23, 1st Floor, N.H.D.A. Building, Kalmunai
067-229728
hrckalmunai@slinet.lk

Jaffna
No.1, 3rd Cross Street, Jaffna.
021-222621
hrcjaff@slinet.lk

HEAD OFFICE

ADDRESS
No. 108, Barnes Place, Colombo 07.

TELEPHONE
(094 011) 2694925, 2673806, 2685339, 2685900, 2685981

FAX
(094 011) 2694924, 2696470

E-MAIL
sehrcc@slinet.lk

WEBSITE
www.hrcsl.lk

To prevent arbitrary arrest or detention or torture
Call
(0904 011) 2699064