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இலங்கை மனித உரிமைகள் ஆணைக்குழு  
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

Press Notice No: HRC/P/i/E/25/09/23

## Press Notice

According to section 10(c) of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka Act, No. 21 of 1996, the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) sent on 21 September 2023 its observations and recommendations on the Draft Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill to Hon. Dr Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms.

The Bill aims to ensure the fulfilment of Sri Lanka's obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Bill stands to establish a valuable legal framework for the protection, promotion, and fulfilment of the rights of persons with disabilities.

The HRCSL requested the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms the following general recommendations:

1. The standard of 'reasonable accommodation' should be more comprehensively integrated into the provisions of the Bill that set out the state's obligations.
2. The notion that women and children with disabilities face 'multiple' or 'intersectional' discrimination should be comprehensively integrated into the Bill, including a specific commitment that state measures to protect, promote, and fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities would be gender and age sensitive.
3. A meaningful consultation with the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka should be held to discuss the precise nature and scope of the Commission's role as an independent monitoring mechanism as contemplated by the Bill.
4. The composition, appointment process, and powers of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities should be reviewed to ensure greater independence as well as respect for the fundamental rights of the people enshrined in the Constitution.
5. The line ministry under which the proposed National Council for Persons with Disabilities should be the Ministry of Justice.

Media Spokesperson  
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

25.09.2023