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இலங்கை மனித உரிமைகள் ஆணைக்குழு
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

Message of the Chairman on International Women's Day 2024

At this crucial juncture where the Sri Lankan economy is rebounding to a growth stage following two consecutive years of contraction, there is a great need to recognize women's contribution and support women as they face the crisis. With the above as one of our primary focus areas this year, the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, as the key oversight body to promote and protect Human Rights, will commemorate International Women's Day under the theme '*Economic transformation through support for women; a response to the crisis*'.

Discussions will be held nationally and regionally, focusing on the contribution made by women in the estate sector, the apparel sector, women migrant workers, and women contract workers. In all of the above categories women workers are frequently underpaid and their rights are overlooked and often left unaddressed. These discussions will be the commencement of a long-term intervention of evidence gathering and formulating observations and policy recommendations to the State and other stakeholders.

Cognizant predominance of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in Sri Lankan society in general the Commission is in the process of setting up an SGBV focal point at the Commission to inquire into and swiftly address the complaints of SGBV which includes sexual harassment at work places and sexual bribery.

I invite all individuals and organizations to proactively engage with the Commission during these interventions and fully cooperate towards implementing the recommendations made by the Commission in a timely manner.

I also call upon all Government and Non-Governmental Organizations to inculcate a culture where gender-responsive planning and budgeting processes are adopted as we step into the new financial year.

It is also a time to review the effectiveness and status of implementing the policies that have been brought forth at a national and an organizational level to end the gender gap in socio-economic settings. It is only then that the country can emerge as a stable economy with increased income security, access to decent work and economic autonomy by all.

I also take this opportunity to appreciate the consistent efforts by all organizations and individuals over the years to advocate and protect the rights of women, despite the many challenges encountered on a daily basis.

Chairman
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka
Colombo.

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