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இலங்கை மனித உரிமைகள் ஆணைக்குழு  
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

Announcement No: HRC/A/i/E/01/05/24

## Announcement

### Re-launch of Thematic Sub-Committees

In 2016, the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) established a series of Thematic Sub-Committees that focused on specific human rights challenges. These Sub-Committees were chaired by Commissioners, and consisted of members of civil society organisations, human rights defenders, thematic experts, and academics.

The HRCSL has decided to re-launch its Thematic Sub-Committees in 2024. The eight new Sub-Committees will focus on the following themes:

1. Personal Liberty<sup>1</sup>
2. Gender and SOGI<sup>2</sup>
3. Child Rights
4. Freedom of Expression
5. Socio-economic Rights
6. Persons with Disabilities
7. The Malaiyaha Tamil Community
8. Business and Human Rights<sup>3</sup>

#### Composition

Each Sub-Committee will comprise the following ten members:

- A **Chairperson**, who will be a Commissioner of the HRCSL;
- A **Rapporteur**, who shall be a Director of the HRCSL;
- **Six** members who are representatives of civil society organisations working on the specific theme; and
- **Two** members who are thematic experts.

The relevant staff members of the HRCSL will also attend meetings on invitation.

#### Nomination Process

The HRCSL invites nominations to fill the vacancies reserved for the six representatives of civil society organisations and two thematic experts for each of the above Sub-Committees.

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<sup>1</sup> This theme covers issues such as torture, custodial and encounter deaths, and arbitrary arrest and detention.

<sup>2</sup> SOGI stands for 'sexual orientation and gender identity'.

<sup>3</sup> This theme covers issues such as rights of workers, labour reform, rights violations ensuing from development projects, and environmental issues.

- All nominations must be in writing and must be accompanied by: (a) a letter of consent from the nominee; and (b) the nominee's curriculum vitae.
- A person may be nominated for no more than one Sub-Committee.
- In the case of nominations to fill the vacancies reserved for representatives of civil society organisations, the nomination must be on the letterhead of a reputed civil society organisation working on the relevant theme and signed by the head of the organisation. An organisation may not submit more than one nomination per Sub-Committee (i.e., an organisation cannot nominate more than one person for a Sub-Committee but may nominate separate persons for separate Sub-Committees).
- In the case of nominations to fill the vacancies reserved for thematic experts, each nomination must be signed and endorsed by at least three reputed civil society organisations working on the relevant theme.

The HRCSL will determine the final composition of each Sub-Committee, taking into consideration the experience and expertise of nominees. To the extent possible, the HRCSL will strive to ensure a balance in the composition of each Sub-Committee in terms of gender, ethnicity, regional representation, age, and disability status. The HRCSL reserves the authority to discontinue the membership of any member of any sub-committee for reasonable cause.

**Nominations may be forwarded to the following email addresses: [chair.hrctl@gmail.com](mailto:chair.hrctl@gmail.com) with a copy to [rm.director.hrctl@gmail.com](mailto:rm.director.hrctl@gmail.com).**

The deadline for nominations is **31 May 2024**.

### **Terms of Reference**

The Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committees will be:

**To review legislation, policies and official practices and procedures pertaining to each theme, and provide guidance to the HRCSL on its policy recommendations to the Government of Sri Lanka;**

**To advise the HRCSL on education and awareness raising with respect to each theme;**

**To advise and assist the HRCSL on conducting key research with respect to each theme; and**

**To advise the HRCSL on making representations to international human rights mechanisms relevant to each theme.**

The Sub-Committees will meet **at least once every quarter** at the Head Office of the HRCSL, and where necessary, meetings will be held in a hybrid format to enable remote participation of members based outside Colombo.

Media Spokesperson  
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka  
01.05.2024