

## The Child Rights Unit Leads Effort to Fortify Collaboration Among Key Child Protection Stakeholders.

The Child Rights Unit (CRU) of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) convened a meeting on 03<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 to strengthen the partnership among Child Protection stakeholders dedicated to protecting the Rights of the Child. The meeting was chaired by the Chairperson of the HRCSL: Justice L. T. B. Dehideniya, and attended by Commissioners of HRCSL: Prof. T. Thanaraj and Mr. Nimal Punchihewa, as well as Directors of the HRCSL: Ms. Menaka Herath, Mr. Kapilan Villavarajan, Mr. Nihal Chandrasiri and Mr Lal Weerasinghe. Additionally, thirty-three representatives from the various institutions mandated to protect child rights participated in the discussion.

The primary objective of the meeting was to enhance collaboration among various organizations dedicated towards protection of Child Rights. Discussions centred on several critical issues, including systemic and policy issues relating to child protection, rising cases of child abuse particularly in schools, corporal punishment, resource scarcity for grassroots organizations, and the lack of Human Rights and Child Rights knowledge among educators and parents.

The participants also brought to light the many challenges faced by each institution in executing their mandated duties. This paved way to also discuss the possibility of streamlining organizational mandates to optimize resource utilization and avoid duplication of efforts.

Recognizing the need to address each issue independently, it was decided to reconvene the relevant stakeholders for focused discussions on each matter. This approach aims to foster collaboration and ensure more effective solutions for the protection of children's rights.



Photographer: Lasya Hettigamage  
Partnership Strengthening Meeting  
Support to Justice Sector Project (JSRP)  
03rd September 2024  
Organized By: Child Rights Unit



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03rd September, 2024 | at the HRCSL Boardroom, Colombo 04  
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