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Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

Press Notice

HRCSL Reiterates Legal Obligation to Implement Its Recommendations

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) wishes to reiterate the legal obligation of all state institutions to implement the Commission's recommendations issued following inquiries conducted under the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka Act, No. 21 of 1996. On 19 June 2025, the Commission issued an official communication to all secretaries to ministries, provincial and chief secretaries, heads of departments, heads of corporations, and statutory boards, reminding them of this obligation.

In accordance with section 15(7) of the Act, the HRCSL has the authority to set a final date by which state institutions must inform the Commission of the steps taken to implement its recommendations. This requirement is legally binding on all public authorities. Furthermore, Public Administration Circular No. 17/2005 issued by the Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs also directs public institutions to ensure the implementation of HRCSL recommendations.

Despite these clear obligations, the Commission notes with concern that certain institutions and officials refrain from implementing its recommendations, citing the existence of an 'appeal' against a recommendation. The Commission wishes to firmly state that there is no legal provision under the Act to appeal against its recommendations. Therefore, invoking the notion of an 'appeal' to justify non-compliance is unfounded and unlawful. HRCSL urges all public institutions and officers to comply with their legal duties, respect the mandate of the Commission, and act to uphold the fundamental rights of all individuals in Sri Lanka. Failure to implement the Commission's recommendations shall result in appropriate action being taken by HRCSL.

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