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இலங்கை மனித உரிமைகள் ஆணைக்குழு
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

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Press Notice

HRCSL Holds Workshop to Develop SOP for National Preventive Mechanism

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) successfully conducted a two-day workshop on 14–15 July 2025 in Colombo to develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM). The workshop was facilitated by the Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law.

This initiative marks a significant milestone in formalizing operational procedures for the NPM. The draft SOP was initially prepared by HRCSL's NPM staff with inputs from experts from the Max Planck Foundation.

The workshop brought together the Chairperson, Commissioners, Directors, Regional Coordinators, members of the NPM team, and regional staff supporting NPM activities. Their active engagement and expertise were vital in further developing content of the SOP. The SOP aims to provide practical guidance to officers conducting visits to places of deprivation of liberty, ensuring alignment with international human rights standards.

Sri Lanka ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) in 2017, committing to establish an independent mechanism to regularly visit detention facilities—such as prisons, police stations, and other custodial settings—to prevent torture and ill-treatment. The HRCSL officially launched its NPM mandate in February 2022.

Since then, the Commission has played a central role in monitoring detention facilities and protecting the rights of persons deprived of liberty. The development of the SOP is expected to enhance the consistency, effectiveness, and professionalism of NPM operations, strengthening the HRCSL's ability to carry out its preventive mandate in accordance with international best practices.

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