

මගේ අංකය }
எனது இல. }
My No. }

ඔබේ අංකය }
உமது இல. }
Your No. }



දිනය } 30.07.2025
திகதி }
Date. }

ශ්‍රී ලංකා මානව හිමිකම් කොමිෂන් සභාව
இலங்கை மனித உரிமைகள் ஆணைக்குழு
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

Mr. D.W.R.B. Seneviratne,
Secretary,
Ministry of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs,
18th Floor, 'Suhurupaya',
Battaramulla

Dear Mr. Seneviratne,

Copy of Draft Non-Governmental Organisations (Registration and Supervision) Bill

We write to you with reference to the draft Non-Governmental Organisations (Registration and Supervision) Bill, which we understand your Ministry is involved in formulating. We further understand that the said Bill aims to provide for the registration and supervision of non-governmental organisations and to repeal the Voluntary Social Services Organisations (Registration and Supervision) Act, No. 31 of 1980.

We kindly request that a copy of the draft Bill be shared with the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka to enable the Commission to fulfil its mandate in terms of section 10(c) of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka Act, No. 21 of 1996. The said provision empowers the Commission to 'advise and assist the government in formulating legislation...in furtherance of the promotion and protection of fundamental rights'.

In March 2024, the Director General of the National Secretariat for Non-Governmental Organisations informed the Commission that the previous version of the Bill had been submitted to the Attorney General's Department to obtain the Certificate of Compliance, and that once the certificate is obtained, your Ministry would forward a copy of the Bill to the Commission. The Commission, however, is yet to receive a copy of the Bill and wishes to clarify that the Commission is prepared to provide its observations on the current version of the Bill as it stands.

As you may know, the Commission provided its observations and recommendations on the Online Safety Bill and some of these were incorporated into the committee stage amendments proposed by the Attorney-General to the Supreme Court. However, the Commission was only able to provide its observations and recommendations on that Bill at the point that the Bill was gazetted by your Ministry. Ideally, the Commission's observations and recommendations on any proposed piece of legislation impacting fundamental rights should be obtained prior to

ප්‍රධාන කාර්යාලය } 14, ආර්. ඒ. ද මෙල් මාවත, කොළඹ - 04.
தலைமைக் காரியாலயம் } 14, ஆர்.ஏ.த.மெல் மாவத்தை, கொழும்பு-04.
Head Office } 14, R.A.De Mel Mawatha, Colombo - 04.
දුරකථන } 94-11- 2505580/81/82
தொலைபேசி }
Telephone }

සභාපති } 011-2505451
தவிசாளர் }
Chairperson }
1
ලේකම් } 011-2505521
செயலாளர் }
Secretary }

ෆැක්ස් } 011 2505541/74
தொலைநகல் }
Fax }
ஹீட்லைன் } 011-2505575
தூரித அழைப்பு }
Hotline } 1996

විද්‍යුත් තැපෑල } sechrsl@gmail.com
மின்னஞ்சல் }
E-mail }
වෙබ් }
இணையம் }
Web } www.hrcsl.lk

gazetting, so as to enable the Commission to offer advice at an earlier stage in the drafting process. It is recommended that the draft Non-Governmental Organisations (Registration and Supervision) Bill be shared with the Commission at the earliest stage possible to enable meaningful engagement on the substance of the Bill.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and engagement on this matter.

Sincerely,



Justice L T B Dehideniya,
Chairman,
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka.

Justice L.T.B. Dehideniya
Judge of the Supreme Court (Retired)
Chairman
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

Cc: Sanjeewa Wimalagunaratna,
Director General,
National Secretariat for Non-Governmental Organizations,
15th Floor, "Suhurupaya",
Battaramulla.