

HRCSL Follow-Up on APF Gender Audit: First Gender Strategy Awareness Session

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) continues to take forward the recommendations arising from the Gender Audit conducted in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Forum. As part of the initial steps in implementing the Commission's Gender Strategy, the first sensitization session for Head Office staff was successfully conducted on 9 March 2026 at the 7th Floor Auditorium of the HRCSL Head Office.



This session served as an introductory programme aimed at familiarizing staff with the Gender Strategy initiative and the key recommendations emerging from the APF Gender Audit. The programme commenced with a comprehensive and engaging lecture delivered by Prof. Farzana Haniffa, Commissioner HRCSL who addressed themes including gender and sexual orientation and gender identity, the broader importance of gender equality within institutions, and the role of a structured gender strategy in strengthening organizational culture and human rights practice.



Following this presentation, Ms. Menaka Herath Secretary(acting) provided a detailed briefing to staff on the HRCSL Gender Strategy and the principal findings and recommendations of the APF Gender Audit Report. This segment focused on explaining the rationale for the strategy and outlining the steps planned for its implementation within the Commission.

In line with the activities proposed for the first year of the Gender Strategy, the session concluded with the screening of a short awareness film addressing issues of gender based harassment in the workplace. The film aimed to encourage reflection among staff and to promote a respectful and inclusive working environment within the Commission.

The programme marked an important initial step in strengthening internal awareness and engagement on gender equality within HRCSL and forms part of the Commission's ongoing efforts to systematically implement the recommendations of the Gender Audit.