

Women and Peace

A listing of organizations
working for
women's rights *and* peace
in Sri Lanka
2015

Researched and compiled by
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Edited by
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WOMEN AND PEACE: AN INCOMPLETE SOUTH ASIAN DIRECTORY

This project originated in a quest to identify potential partners for peace-related projects. That quest shifted shape, but we kept the kernel of the work and expanded its scope to include all SAARC member countries.

We started with the question, “Which women’s organizations work on peace?” But given that feminists define peace as far more than the cessation of conflict and hostilities, the term was hardly a filter. After all, peace is also empowerment, engaged citizenship, good governance, sustainable development and a free flow of information and expression. As we identified organizations across a spectrum of activities, we began to tag them with ‘keywords’:

- Peace and conflict transformation
- Women’s rights and empowerment
- Capacity building and community mobilization
- Governance and policy advocacy
- Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development
- Information and communication

The keywords are simply intended to help in our search to identify resources and partners, not to narrowly define an organization’s work in any way.

The directory is the product of a desk-based Internet search. We invite you to email us with names and website addresses for organizations you think should be included. Email us at prajnyatrust@gmail.com.

Profound thanks are due to Vignesh Rajendran, Research Intern at Chaitanya-The Policy Consultancy; it is his diligent research that made this project possible. Thanks are also due to Mitha Nandagopalan whose meticulous editing has refined these documents immensely.

January 1, 2015

About Prajnya

The Prajnya Trust is a Chennai-based non-profit engaged in research, public education and network-building in areas related to peace, justice and security. This project is located at the intersection of its two initiatives—Politics, Security and Women and Education for Peace. Prajnya’s online coordinates:

Email: prajnyatrust@gmail.com

Web: <http://www.prajnya.in>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/prajnyatrust>

Twitter: [@prajnya](https://twitter.com/prajnya)

NAME	LOCATION	KEYWORDS	CONTACT PERSON/EMAIL	PAGE
CENTER FOR EAST LANKA SOCIAL SERVICES (CELSS)	Ampara	Peace and conflict transformation; Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization; Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development	celssrilanka@yahoo.com	
CENTER FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION (CPR)	Jaffna	Peace and conflict transformation; Capacity building and community mobilization	cprjaffna@gmail.com	
CENTER FOR WOMEN & DEVELOPMENT (CWD)	Jaffna	Peace and conflict transformation; Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization; Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development	sarojalk@gmail.com; cwdjaffna@gmail.com	
CENTER FOR WOMEN'S RESEARCH (CENWOR)	Colombo	Peace and conflict transformation; Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization; Information and communication	cenwor@slt.lk	
DIRIYASHAKTHI FOUNDATION	Gonawala	Capacity building and community mobilization; Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development	info@driyashakthi.org	
GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING BY WOMEN (GROW)	Colombo	Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization	agromart@slt.lk, jgajanay@niu.edu	

NAME	LOCATION	KEYWORDS	CONTACT PERSON/EMAIL	PAGE
INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR ETHICS STUDIES (ICES)	Colombo	Peace and conflict transformation; Governance and policy advocacy; Information and communication	admin@ices.lk	
JAFFNA SOCIAL CENTER (JASC)	Jaffna	Peace and conflict transformation; Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization; Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development	jsacjaffna@gmail.com	
MOTHERS FRONT		Peace and conflict transformation; Women's rights and empowerment; Information and communication		
MUSLIM WOMEN'S RESEARCH AND ACTION FORUM (MWRAF)	Colombo	Peace and conflict transformation; Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization	mwarf@sltnet.lk	
NEELAN TIRUCHELVAM TRUST (NTT)	Colombo	Peace and conflict transformation; Capacity building and community mobilization; Governance and policy advocacy	ntt@neelan.org	
SAMADANA/M	Kandy	Peace and conflict transformation; Capacity building and community mobilization	info@samadana-m.org	

NAME	LOCATION	KEYWORDS	CONTACT PERSON/EMAIL	PAGE
SARVODAYA SHANTHI SENA SANSADAYA	Moratuwa	Peace and conflict transformation; Capacity building and community mobilization	sarvoshanthi@slnet.lk	
SATYODAYA CENTER	Kandy	Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization; Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development	satyoda@eureka.lk; satyodaya.centre@gmail.com	
SOUTH ASIA PARTNERSHIP SRI LANKA (SAPSRI)	Colombo	Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization	sapsri@slt.lk	
SOUTH ASIA POLICY AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE (SAPRI)	Colombo	Peace and conflict transformation; Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization; Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development	info@thesapri.org	
SURIYA WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (SWDC)	Batticaloa	Peace and conflict transformation; Women's rights and empowerment; Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development	suriyaw@slt.lk	
SURVIVORS ASSOCIATED	Dehiwala	Peace and conflict transformation; Capacity building and community mobilization	suraso@eureka.lk	

NAME	LOCATION	KEYWORDS	CONTACT PERSON/EMAIL	PAGE
ASIA FOUNDATION: SRI LANKA	Colombo	Peace and conflict transformation; Capacity building and community mobilization; Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development	tafsrilanka@asiafound.org, srilanka.general@asiafoundation.org	
ASSOCIATION OF WAR AFFECTED WOMEN (AWAW)	Kandy	Peace and conflict transformation; Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization; Information and communication	info@awawsl.org	
THE NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL (NPC)	Colombo	Peace and conflict transformation; Capacity building and community mobilization	info@peace-srilanka.org	
VILUTHU	Colombo	Peace and conflict transformation; Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization; Governance and policy advocacy	info@viluthu.org	
WOMEN AND MEDIA COLLECTIVE (WMC)	Colombo	Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization; Governance and policy advocacy; Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development		

NAME	LOCATION	KEYWORDS	CONTACT PERSON/EMAIL	PAGE
WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (WDF)	Gunnapana	Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization; Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development	wdfsrilanka@yahoo.com	
WOMEN'S CENTER	Ja-Ela	Peace and conflict transformation; Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization	womenscenter@slnet.lk; info@womenscentresrilanka.org	

CENTER FOR EAST LANKA SOCIAL SERVICES (CELSS)

<http://celssngo.blogspot.in>

Keywords: Peace and conflict transformation; Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization; Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development

01/1, Main Street
Nintavur-24
Ampara
Sri Lanka

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Email: celssrilanka@yahoo.com

Factfile

- CELSS, established in 1994 by a group 30 Muslim and Tamil youth, promotes peace and works to rehabilitate women and children affected by the civil war.
- CELSS aims to bridge the gap between the different communities living in the area and prevent misunderstandings, friction and the resulting conflict between these communities.
- Staff: 10 permanent staff, 25 volunteers
- President: Mr. M.I.M. Mansoor

Areas of activity

CELSS' activities in peace building and rehabilitation for women and children include:

- Organizing sports events and exchange programs among Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim communities to promote understanding and acceptance among youth;
- Workshops in schools and villages across the region to promote gender issues and women's rights;
- Setting up health camps to provide clean drinking water and sanitation to tsunami-affected families;
- Capacity-building and leadership workshops for youth and women.

CENTER FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION (CPR)

<http://www.peacecentrejaffna.org/>

Keywords: Peace and conflict transformation; Capacity building and community mobilization

#08, Grousseau Road
Jaffna
Sri Lanka

Telephone: 0094-021-2228131 / 0094-21-3215212

Fax: 0094-021-2228131

Email: cprjaffna@gmail.com

Skype: [j.j.kamalanathan](https://www.skype.com/people/j.j.kamalanathan)

Factfile

- CPR, established in Jaffna in 1998, works to support and rehabilitate women and children affected by war, by conducting peace-building programs and providing psychosocial support.
- CPR has conducted training for more than 1,000 students from 55 schools, 25 school teachers, and 30 school principals and deputy principals, in the Jaffna region.
- CPR is a joint venture supported by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Jaffna and Pax Christi Germany.
- Director: Rev. Fr. J. J. Kamalanathan

Areas of activity

CPR's activities in educating and supporting individuals and organizations to promote peaceful conflict resolution include:

- A two-day Basic Training in Peace Work program to make participants aware of violence in society and develop personal conflict resolution and communication skill;
- Peace education for children in primary schools in Jaffna;
- Developing knowledge of Nonviolent Communication (NVC) among staff and volunteer facilitators of the organization;
- Establishing a peace library in Jaffna to facilitate research on peace building.

CENTER FOR WOMEN & DEVELOPMENT (CWD)

<http://www.cwdjaffna.org/>

Keywords: Peace and conflict transformation; Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization; Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development

07 Ratnam Lane
KKS Road, Jaffna
Sri Lanka

Telephone: +94 0 21 2224398

Email: sarojalk@gmail.com; cwdjaffna@gmail.com

Factfile

- CWD, established in 1988, promotes women's social and economic empowerment through advocacy and rights-based programs.
- CWD has also worked to support women displaced by Sri Lanka's civil war, and focuses particularly on women-headed households in the Northern region.
- Director: Ms. Saroja Sivachandran.

Areas of activity

CWD's activities on peace building and women's empowerment include the following initiatives:

- Organizing peace action groups, consisting of volunteers and religious leaders, to identify conflicts within communities and resolve them in peaceful manner;
- Exchange programs between the youths and community leaders of different districts;
- Seminars and campaigns on CEDAW (the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women) to stop violence against women;
- Documenting data online on the rehabilitation of women in conflict-affected regions;
- Providing legal aid to women affected by domestic violence through the establishment of a free legal aid unit;
- Capacity-building activities for war-affected women through the livelihood program, providing special training on small-scale businesses.

CENTER FOR WOMEN'S RESEARCH (CENWOR)

<http://www.cenwor.lk>

Keywords: Peace and conflict transformation; Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization; Information and communication

225/4 Kirula Road
Colombo-5
Sri Lanka

Telephone: +94 11 2369530, 2502153, 2368965

Email: cenwor@slt.lk

Factfile

- CENWOR, established in 1984, works for gender equality and women's empowerment by conducting research, training, lobbying and monitoring of gender related issues.
- CENWOR has released a number of publications on gender equality.

Areas of activity

CENWOR's work on gender equality and women's empowerment include:

- Conducting policy and action-oriented research on gender equality in health, decision making, human rights, environment and various other issues;
- Collecting data on problems faced by women affected by armed conflict and victims of gender-based violence;
- Disseminating information on gender issues through reports and other publications, videos, workshops, seminars, conferences and the Internet;
- Conducting training sessions for rural women on gender sensitization, awareness raising and gender mainstreaming;
- Lobbying for women's rights and for the establishment of a National Commission on Women.

DIRIYASHAKTHI FOUNDATION

<http://www.diriyashakthi.org/>

Keywords: Capacity building and community mobilization; Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development

Sri Sunandaramaya
Thalwatta, Gonawala
Sri Lanka

Telephone: +94 11 4972687

Email: info@diriyashakthi.org

Factfile

- The Diriyashakthi Foundation, established in 2001 and formally registered as an NGO in 2007, conducts social service and welfare activities to provide relief and rehabilitation for people affected by natural disasters.
- Diriyashakthi also conducts capacity-building activities for women and children.

Areas of activity

Diriyashakthi's projects on capacity building and rehabilitation programs include:

- Development of Education of Sons & Daughters of Sri Lanka project, providing vocational training in computers for school children;
- Free support classes for selected underprivileged students in the fifth grade under the Grade 5 Scholarship Examination;
- Facilitating free ambulance services for low income groups;
- Seminars and workshops on personality development for students above 9 years;
- Waste management project established with the guidance of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING BY WOMEN (GROW)

<http://www.niu.edu/srilankaproj/woman.html>

Keywords: Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization

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Factfile

- GROW, established in 2002, is a joint effort by Northern Illinois University (NIU) USA and a coalition of four Sri Lanka-based NGOs, including Agromart Foundation. GROW aims to build capacity among women and promote their participation in grassroots democracy.
- The other NGO partners in the project are the Center for Women's Research (CENWOR), Muslim Women's Research and Action Forum (MWRAF) and Sarvodaya Women's Movement.
- International Training Office Project Director, University of Northern Illinois: Ms. Jaya Gayanayake
- Agromart Foundation Chairperson: Ms. Buelah Moonasinghe

Areas of activity

GROW's programs for strengthening women's participation in grassroots democracy include:

- Advocacy Support Unit (ASU) at Agromart Foundation for training women leaders;
- Four-day capacity building program on sustainable grassroots democracy for ten selected NGO leaders;
- Developing training manuals in both Sinhala and Tamil for trainers in the Capacity building program;
- Organizing seminars both in Sri Lanka and United States to disseminate information gained through the project;
- Conducting workshops on creative problem-solving and decision making on community issues for selected participants.

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR ETHICS STUDIES (ICES)

<http://www.ices.lk>

Keywords: Peace and conflict transformation; Governance and policy advocacy; Information and communication

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Sri Lanka

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Email: admin@ices.lk

Factfile

- ICES, established in 1982, focuses on peace building, conflict resolution and gender. It has been influential in shaping policy and public imagination on issues of ethnic diversity and the corresponding constitutional reforms in Sri Lanka.
- The organization has both offices and a library in Colombo and Kandy.
- Executive Director: Mario Gomez

Areas of activity

ICES contributes to research on conflict resolution, post-war reconstruction and democracy through the following initiatives:

- Conducting research to provide critical analysis on various conflicts, conflict transformations and gender issues through both theoretical and empirical field-based study;
- Creating a forum for discussion of gender-related topics;
- Conducting conferences on peaceful conflict resolution;
- Publication of books, reports and journals both in Tamil and Sinhala on gender issues and conflict resolution;
- Managing libraries containing a range of publications on ethnicity, culture, religion, women's studies, politics, law and history as a resource for other scholars and organizations;
- Producing documentaries and conducting film festivals, art exhibitions and writing workshops to raise awareness on gender issues.

JAFFNA SOCIAL CENTER (JASC)

www.insightonconflict.org/conflicts/sri-lanka/peacebuilding-organizations/jasc

Keywords: Peace and conflict transformation; Women’s rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization; Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development

No.159 4th Cross Street
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Sri Lanka

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Email: jsacjaffna@gmail.com

Factfile

- JASC, established in 2003, works to provide rehabilitation services to displaced women and children by coordinating with other governmental and non-governmental organization.
- Coordinator: Mr. Sukirtharaj Nadarjah

Areas of activity

JASC work on rehabilitation and conflict resolution includes:

- Workshops for rural communities on preventing conflict and building peaceful dialogue;
- Capacity building classes for women affected by war, in collaboration with Jaffna Technical College;
- Building shelters for internally displaced communities in order to provide them security and education for employment;
- Providing free legal assistance, medical aid and shelter for women affected by violence.

MOTHERS FRONT

The Mothers Front does not maintain its own website; various organizations work under the banner of the Mothers Front, and information on this has been taken from these organizations' websites.

Keywords: Peace and conflict transformation; Women's rights and empowerment; Information and communication

Factfile

- The Mothers Front, formed in July 1990 by women whose children or husbands were killed or disappeared during 1980s, aims to create an independent commission to investigate deaths and disappearances from that time period.
- The Mothers Front has advocated for a formal inquiry into the fate of the disappeared, compensation for dependents of victims and help for relatives from social services.
- The organization has split into different splinter groups, such as the Southern Mothers Front and the Sinhala Mothers Front.
- Founders: Mahinda Rajapakse and Managala Samaraweera (then MPs from the Sri Lankan Freedom Party)

Areas of activity

The Mothers Front's work on conflict transformation includes:

- Creating a forum for Sri Lankan women find their children who went missing during the civil war;
- Organizing rallies and other religious events to pressure the government to take action against disappearance;
- Conducting marches and sit-downs to demand the removal of oppressive laws and the disclosure of names of political prisoners.

MUSLIM WOMEN'S RESEARCH AND ACTION FORUM (MWRAF)

<http://www.mwraf.org/>

Keywords: Peace and conflict transformation; Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization

No. 73/19 E
Kirulapone Avenue
Colombo-05
Sri Lanka

Telephone: +94 11 2512846

Fax: +94 11 4405902

Email: mwarf@sltnet.lk

Factfile

- MWRAF, started in 1976 and formally registered as an NGO in 1990, addresses issues faced by Muslim women in Sri Lanka.
- MWRAF is a part of the international solidarity network, Women Living Under Muslim Laws.
- Senior Program Coordinator: Ms. Nadira Salih

Areas of activity

MWRAF's initiatives to empower Muslim women include:

- Legal Clinic for Women on Muslim Personal Law Issues, providing legal advice on matters relating to marriage, divorce, child custody and other women's and family issues;
- Promoting peace building and co-existence by creating forums for dialogue and training women in peace education;
- Women's empowerment and mobilization through workshops, informal discussions, documentaries, media programs and publications;
- Conducting research on law and the status of Muslim women in Sri Lanka;
- Documentation and resource center to disseminate research and reports;
- Networking with other organizations that have similar objectives to address broader issues of concern at the national level.

NEELAN TIRUCHELVAM TRUST (NTT)

<http://www.neelan.org/>

Keywords: Peace and conflict transformation; Capacity building and community mobilization; Governance and policy advocacy

16/6A Ward Place
Mohideen Terrace
Colombo 07
Sri Lanka

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Email: ntt@neelan.org

Factfile

- NTT, established in 2001, was founded in memory of Mr. Neelan Tiruchelvam, a Tamil politician, academician and peace maker who was assassinated by the LTTE in 1999. The trust's mission is to collectively promote peace, reconciliation and human rights.
- NTT mainly focuses on promoting pluralistic values, good governance and institutional building, and on engaging youth for social transformation and human rights.
- The trust is governed by a board of directors from a range of ethnic and sociocultural backgrounds.
- Executive Director: Ms. Jacqueline Netto-Lyman

Areas of activity

NTT's contributions to social development and peace building include:

- Providing core support for grassroots women's groups by offering advocacy and networking resources as well as legal assistance to women's groups;
- Promoting awareness on human rights by producing documentary films, hosting radio programs and organizing public workshops;
- Mediating and networking between local and international institutions to create space for sharing experiences and disseminating knowledge on peace building and human rights;
- Organizing cultural events, such as an annual road painting event, to raise awareness on peaceful conflict resolution;
- Supporting arts groups and civil society organizations that utilize dance, music and theater to promote messages of civil rights, equality, peace and justice.

SAMADANA/M

<http://www.samadana-m.org>

Keywords: Peace and conflict transformation; Capacity building and community mobilization

No.89, Tekkawatta
Tennekumbura
Kandy, Sri Lanka

Telephone: +94 81 2236883, 2240320

Fax: +94 81 2240087

Email: info@samadana-m.org

Factfile

- Samadana/m, established in 1993, was founded by a group of people trained Non-Violent Conflict Resolution (NVCR); the organization aims to impart that training to others. Current Samadana/m volunteers have also undergone NVCR training.
- The words *Samadana* and *Samadanam* mean “peace” in Sinhala and Tamil, respectively.
- National Coordinator: Dr. Muhammed Muzzammil Cader

Areas of activity

Samadana/m activities to disseminate knowledge on Non-Violent Conflict Resolution include:

- Training programs and workshops on peace building efforts and using NVCR to develop a culture of peace;
- Conducting discussions and talk programs on issues of violence in Sri Lanka;
- Regional workshops with other countries to develop and promote NVCR;
- Integration projects to bring together people from different religions, languages and ethnicities;
- Study and action-oriented visits to conflict areas.

SARVODAYA SHANTHI SENA SANSADAYA

<http://shanthisena.yolasite.com/>

Keywords: Peace and conflict transformation; Capacity building and community mobilization

No. 75/2, Rawatawatte Road
Moratuwa
Sri Lanka

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Fax: +94 11 2656512

Email: sarvoshanthi@slnet.lk

Factfile

- Sarvodaya Shanthi Sena Sansadaya is an offshoot of Sarvodaya, a relief and development organization that has been active for nearly 50 years. Sarvodaya currently conducts development activities in over 15,000 villages.
- "Shanthi Sena", or Peace Brigade, units were inaugurated in 1978 by then Sarvodaya President Dr. A.T. Ariyaratne, in response to communal disturbances throughout Sri Lanka.
- Shanthi Sena seeks to create an active youth leadership that is socially, economically and politically conscious and engage, and that can apply non-violent methods to eradicate violence. Shanthi Sena has mobilised over 100,000 youth in peace building efforts.

Areas of activity

Sarvodaya Shanthi Sena's peace building and community development activities include:

- Holding events and gatherings to promote national unity and inter-religious cooperation;
- A 12-stage training program to empower youth and especially rural youth, providing training in skills such as leadership, first aid and health care, environmental conservation, language proficiency and community development;
- Inter-district, national and international youth exchange camps to develop ethnic and cultural harmony;
- Organizing cultural and sports programs as peace-building initiatives;
- Conducting peace rallies and marches to raise awareness;
- Emergency Disaster Management Training for youth.

SATYODAYA CENTER

<http://www.satyodaya.org/>

Keywords: Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization; Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development

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Kandy
Sri Lanka

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Fax: +94 81 2237033

Email: satyoda@eureka.lk; satyodaya.centre@gmail.com

Factfile

- Satyodaya, founded in 1972 and officially registered as an NGO in 1992, was originally intended to be a research centre for ethno-socio-politico issues of the region, and has since branched out into community development.
- Satyodaya engages in a wide range of community development programs designed to support plantation workers and rural people, especially women and youth.

Areas of activity

Satyodaya's community development and women's empowerment activities include:

- Entrepreneurship Development Training for young women;
- Annual leadership training courses for selected and interested youth who live in Satyodaya's working locations;
- Health Volunteers' Training program for youth for imparting basic knowledge of community health and nutrition.
- Providing financial aid to women entrepreneurs;
- Capacity building activities for tea plantation workers on health, sanitation and environment.

SOUTH ASIA PARTNERSHIP SRI LANKA (SAPSRI)

<http://www.sapsri.lk>

Keywords: Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization

1175/2 Lake Crescent
Kotte Road, Rajagiriya
Colombo
Sri Lanka

Telephone: +94 11 5353478, 5344331

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Email: sapsri@slt.lk

Factfile

- SAPSRI, established in 1981, engages in development activities aimed mostly at empowering women and youth across ten districts in Sri Lanka.
- SAPSRI is governed by a ten-member governing council and has 20 staff members.
- Executive Director: Dr M. U. A. Tennakoon.

Areas of activity

SAPSRI's work in youth and women's empowerment includes:

- Workshops in rural areas about women's empowerment and human rights;
- Small and Medium Enterprise Development (SMED) program, providing women with credit to start small business and agricultural production;
- Hamboo Project, supporting low-income women through rigorous training in the art of bag-making using the hamboo reed.
- Youth as Agents of Change Project, training selected youth to become active citizens and leaders of social change

SOUTH ASIA POLICY AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE (SAPRI)

<http://www.thesapri.org/>

Keywords: Peace and conflict transformation; Women’s rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization; Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development

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Sri Lanka

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Email: info@thesapri.org

Factfile

- SAPRI, a non-profit think tank, focuses on studying conflict resolution through mutual understanding and diplomacy.
- The organization aims to engage in networked research and debates with national and civil society leaders, with the purpose of designing policies for conflict prevention, peace building and women’s empowerment.
- Executive Director: Mr. C. D. Casie Chetty

Areas of activity

SAPRI’s research on conflict resolution and women’s empowerment in South Asia includes:

- Conflict prevention study to identify potential conflicts and their causes, in order to identify conflicts early enough to mitigate or prevent them;
- Peace building research, aimed at observing post-conflict transitions in different societies;
- Meetings and seminars to educate people on the importance of the social empowerment of women;
- Wide surveys on selected aspects of governance, to promote policies on effective management of government;
- Dissemination and online publication of research reports.

SURIYA WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (SWDC)

<http://suriyawomen.org/>

Keywords: Peace and conflict transformation; Women's rights and empowerment; Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development

No. 55 Lady Manning Drive
Batticaloa
Sri Lanka

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Email: suriyaw@slt.lk

Factfile

- Suriya Women's Development Centre (SWDC), established in 1991, works with women and children displaced by conflict, focusing mainly on women displaced in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka.
- Manager: Ms. Sarala Emmanuel

Areas of activity

Suriya's post-conflict relief and rehabilitation activities include:

- Gender development programs to bring together women from Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim ethnicities;
- Training selected women to speak up for a peaceful society;
- Vocational training workshops in refugee camp;
- Providing psychosocial counseling and legal aid to women affected by violence;
- Use of cultural theatre and music to raise awareness on women's empowerment.

SURVIVORS ASSOCIATED

<http://www.survivorsassociated.org>

Keywords: Peace and conflict transformation; Capacity building and community mobilization

No. 22
Melford Crescent
Dehiwala
Sri Lanka

Telephone: +94 11 2738313, 2735408

Fax: +94 11 2732428

Email: suraso@eureka.lk

Factfile

- Survivors Associated (SA), established in 1996, conducts psychosocial development activities at a grassroots level in conflict-affected districts of Sri Lanka. SA primarily focuses on aiding female heads of households, torture survivors, disabled individuals, prisoners and children from conflict-affected areas. SA has also worked to rehabilitate ex-LTTE cadres.
- SA trains young people to act as psychosocial caregivers, business counselors and peace building activists within their local communities.
- Executive Director: Ms. Shanti Arulampalam

Areas of activity

SA's rehabilitation and peace building activities include:

- Training in peace building and human rights for survivors' staff, doctors, prison staff, superintendents and cultural leaders;
- Creating interfaith harmony through language classes, sports meets and cultural programs;
- Providing counseling services for individuals and groups;
- Organising Medical and Physiotherapy Clinics in SA offices;
- Capacity-building programs for torture survivors, widows and the disabled, such as Skills Training, Entrepreneurship Development and micro-credit training .

ASIA FOUNDATION: SRI LANKA

<http://www.asiafoundation.org/country/overview/sri-lanka>

Keywords: Peace and conflict transformation; Capacity building and community mobilization; Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development

30/1 Bagatelle Road
Colombo 3
Sri Lanka

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Email: tafsrilanka@asiafound.org, srilanka.general@asiafoundation.org

Factfile

- The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization; the Sri Lanka branch of the foundation works to achieve long-term peace and prosperity by strengthening institutions of governance and improving economic growth.
- Asia Foundation: Sri Lanka has worked extensively to improve the administration of justice and provide psychosocial services.
- Country Representative: Dinesha de Silva

Areas of activity

The Asia Foundation's work in improving local governance and providing psychosocial services includes:

- Creating Community Mediation Boards, an alternative mechanism to resolve disputes and establish justice;
- Increasing the number of women mediators in partnership with the Ministry of Justice;
- Training of youth in peaceful conflict mediation;
- Providing free medical care to people affected by conflict;
- Tri-lingual workshops in Tamil, Sinhalese and English on peaceful conflict resolution.

ASSOCIATION OF WAR AFFECTED WOMEN (AWAW)

<http://www.awawsl.org>

Keywords: Peace and conflict transformation; Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization; Information and communication

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Factfile

- AWAW, established in 2000, serves war-affected women and works to achieve sustainable peace Sri Lanka. AWAW was initiated to bring war-affected women across conflict lines together to work towards peace.
- AWAW's aims to strengthen democracy, women's advancement and equal participation in order to promote sustainable peace.
- Members of AWAW have had their husbands, sons, fathers or brothers killed, missing or disabled in the war, or have themselves been disabled or displaced.
- Chair and Coordinator: Ms. Visaka Dharamadasa is the chairman and coordinator of AWAW.

Areas of activity

The main activities of AWAW in the field of conflict transformation include:

- Training women leaders as peace builders in the region;
- Training women to run for political office;
- Conducting seminars and workshops on peace building throughout Sri Lanka to encourage women to exercise their rights;
- Rehabilitating former child soldiers in partnership with McGill University;
- Disseminating information through videos, reports and publications;
- Working with international organizations like the Global Network of Women Peace builders, Women Waging Peace and Women Thrive Worldwide to expand its reach.

THE NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL (NPC)

<http://www.peace-srilanka.org/>

Keywords: Peace and conflict transformation; Capacity building and community mobilization

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Factfile

- NPC, established in 1995, engages in advocacy, research and dialogue in order to educate and mobilize people to work for a political solution to the ethnic conflict.
- Chairman: Mr. Tony Senewiratne
- Executive Director: Dr. Jehan Perera

Areas of activity

NPC's peace building programs include:

- "Training of Trainer" workshops to empower civil society activists to build grassroots-level support for national reconciliation in their own communities;
- Workshops on conflict sensitivity, peace building and media training;
- Research and analysis to provide resources on the course of conflict;
- Workshops to promote the role of women in peace and public life.

VILUTHU

<http://www.viluthu.org/>

Keywords: Peace and conflict transformation; Women’s rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization; Governance and policy advocacy

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Factfile

- Viluthu, established in 2003, works to promote a culture of democracy by facilitating changes in legislation, policies and institutional culture. *Viluthu* in Tamil means the hanging roots of a banyan tree.
- Viluthu supports and strengthens people’s network in the conflict-affected north and east.
- Chief Executive Officer: Ms. Shanti A. Sachithanandam

Areas of activity

Viluthu’s activities on peace and capacity building include:

- Samuthaaya Sangilihal program, training Jaffna University students to engage in community development;
- Food and Nutrition Security project for the poor communities of Mutur;
- Training women heads of households by giving them vocational training for employment.
- Shadows of Play theatre program to build capacity among rural youth communications, and to raise awareness through theatre about women’s empowerment, the harms of alcoholism, child abuse and other issues;
- Training on gender and participation in community development in Jaffna for government officials and staff members of other NGO;
- Raising election funds for women candidates to promote women in leadership.

WOMEN AND MEDIA COLLECTIVE (WMC)

<http://www.womenandmedia.net/>

Keywords: Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization; Governance and policy advocacy; Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development

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Factfile

- The Women and Media Collective, established in 1984, aims to bring about change based on feminist principles for a society free from violence; it is particularly active with regard to women in media and communications.
- WMC's long-term goals include a balanced representation of women in decision-making and governance, as well as non-discriminatory laws and policies.
- Executive Directors: Ms. Kumudini Samuel and Dr. Sepali Kottegoda

Areas of activity

WMC's activities on women's political empowerment include:

- Observation and monitoring of local government bodies to improve good governance at the local level;
- Promoting interaction between local government members and community groups;
- Supporting and training women leaders to increase the representation of women in political institutions and decision making processes;
- Formulation and drafting of policies and assisting with legal reforms in collaboration with government institutions;
- Raising awareness on women's empowerment through the publication of magazines, journals and other media.

WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (WDF)

<http://www.wdfsrilanka.org/>

Keywords: Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization; Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development

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Factfile

- Women's Development Foundation, started in 1998 and officially registered as an NGO in 2002, works on philanthropic projects aimed at empowering women.
- The main focus of the organization is ecofeminism, or sustainable development and women's empowerment through eco-friendly initiatives.
- Director: Mrs. R.N.K Dodanwala

Areas of activity

WDF's sustainable development and women's empowerment activities include:

- Establishing an Environmental Education Center to provide training on organic farming;
- Training rural women in sustainable development practices and income-generating activities, through methods that enhance agricultural and dairy productivity;
- Establishing preschools for girls in villages;
- Conducting workshops to raise awareness of fuel saving methods;
- Restoration of reservoirs in the Anuradapura district as part of the water conservation project;
- Peace building between Sinhala and Tamil farmers through joint farming activities.

WOMEN'S CENTER

<http://www.womenscentresrilanka.org>

Keywords: Peace and conflict transformation; Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization

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Factfile

- Women's Centre, established in 1982, works on women's rights and empowerment of women workers. The organization opened branches Biyagama in 1998 and Koggala in 1999.
- Women's Centre mainly focuses on rallying and organizing working women and other repressed women, and building a robust women's leadership network.

Areas of activity

Women's Centre's activities in women's empowerment include:

- Gender-based violence workshops both Sinhala and Tamil;
- Annual leadership workshops for selected women;
- Raising awareness about the rights of women workers by organizing rallies and demonstrations on occasions like Workers' Day and Women's Day;
- Establishing children's day care centers for working mothers, to enable them to seek and maintain employment;
- Shramika Street drama troupe, conducting street plays to educate people about gender violence and women's empowerment.