

# Centre for Policy Alternatives

## Annual Report 2018

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# FOREWORD

The year 2018 was a memorable year. It marked the 70th anniversary of Sri Lanka's independence, which CPA in turn marked with a Survey on people's expectations of Democracy, Government and Governance. It also marked the lowest and highest points in our political and constitutional evolution on account of the October 26th constitutional coup launched by the President and the landmark decision of the Supreme Court that led to its resolution, reaffirming the institutions and processes of liberal democracy in Sri Lanka.

In the drama that unfolded CPA was an active participant, upholding the integrity of our democratic processes, the role of Parliament and the Judiciary. CPA was the only civil society organization to petition the Supreme Court on the unconstitutionality of the dissolution of Parliament and at all times maintained that the rule of law, the institutions and procedures of democracy had to be observed and maintained.

Once the constitutional coup was averted, public discourse and speculation shifted to the impending Presidential election and the likely candidates, and in particular the issue of Mr Gotabhaya Rajapaksa's dual nationality and his ability to revoke his US citizenship in time to contest the Presidential election. In addition there were the attempts to petition the Supreme Court on the issue of whether the current President was entitled to an extra year in office. CPA maintained that the Nineteenth Amendment was clear that this was not possible.

The fast pace of events during 2018 militated against the organization working on a strategic plan for the next three years, whilst on a retreat. CPA has always maintained that the winning platform of the 2015 election was one that it took a lead in designing and defending since its inception in 1996 and therefore the organization has a responsibility to ensure that the agenda is not forsaken but fulfilled. This could entail working with government to achieve this purpose as opposed to working for government, thereby risking the compromise of its organizational integrity as a civil society actor. The Strategic Plan will have to factor this in and come up with innovative ways of ensuring that the 2015 platform is not abandoned but fulfilled.

Members of the organization continued to be invited to international conferences on constitutional reform and transitional justice. Right to Information petitions were filed to impress upon the public the importance of the RTI regime for governance and the key point that RTI was for all citizens and not just for media actors. Another successful activity was the campaign to raise awareness of greater female participation in politics and the monitoring of the Local Government Election in which the party formed by former President Rajapaksa, the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna triumphed triggering off the search for a new Prime Minister by the President and culminating eventually in the Constitutional Coup in October.

In 2018, CPA and indeed the country surmounted key challenges. The repercussions of all of this will no doubt spill into 2019. Consequently the organization will have to ensure that it has the ability to sustain itself in terms of resources and the political will and commitment to continue to pursue its mandate and mission.

Dr. Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu  
*Executive Director*

# INTRODUCTION

## Vision

A liberal, democratic Sri Lanka.

## Mission

To strengthen the civil society contribution to public policymaking through programmes of research and advocacy in the areas of democratic governance and peace with human rights as an overarching priority.

## About the Centre for Policy Alternatives

The Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) was established in 1996 with the aim of strengthening institution and capacity-building for good governance and conflict transformation in Sri Lanka. For over 20 years, CPA has set the bar in Sri Lanka for how cutting-edge research and advocacy can be communicated through constructive dialogue and innovative content to address deficits in democracy and governance.

CPA works across four key units in three offices located in Colombo. The **Research & Advocacy** Team engages in critique and advocacy of policy alternatives through comprehensive field-based and applied research outputs and also leads CPA's public interest litigation efforts. The **Outreach Monitoring** Team works with local government and community based organisations on participatory governance, grassroots capacity building and service delivery, while working to generate mobilisation on social equality and reconciliation. **Social Indicator** is CPA's survey research unit and conducts public opinion polling on a wide range of social and political issues. The **Civic Media** Unit manages the award winning civic media initiatives *Maatram*, *Vikalpa* and *Groundviews* which seek to amplify narratives by citizens otherwise marginal to and erased from mainstream media. In addition, CPA hosts the **Centre for Monitoring Election Violence** (CMEV), the leading election monitoring and electoral reform advocacy organisation in Sri Lanka which promotes free and fair elections and inclusive democratic participation.

CPA works with a wide range of actors across Sri Lanka, from civil society organisations and community based activists, to students and academics, to provincial and local government officials. CPA also engages with numerous NGOs, civil society organisations and academics in the international sphere to share, collaborate on and learn from policy approaches to democratic governance and sustainable peace. CPA staff members are regularly quoted in media, both locally and internationally, for their expertise and insights. Institutional output in print and online in all three languages is regularly flagged and used in debates on domestic policy making and international discourse.

## **The Board of Directors**

### **Professor Chandraguptha Thenuwara (Chairman)**

**Senior Lecturer: Department of History & Art Theory, Faculty of Visual Arts, Colombo**



Chandraguptha Thenuwara (BFA/MFA/MPhil) is a senior lecturer and head of the Department of History and Art Theory at the University of the Visual and Performing Arts Colombo. Professor Thenuwara is a leading Sri Lankan artist and activist whose work focuses on issues surrounding the impact of conflict and politics on Sri Lanka. He studied painting at the Institute of Aesthetic Studies, University of Kelaniya (1978-1981) and Surikov State Art Institute, Moscow, Russia (1985-1992); and received an MPhil at the Post Graduate Institute of Archeology (PGIAR), Kelaniya University (2006). In 1993, He founded the Vibhavi Academy of Fine Arts (VAFA), an artist-run alternative art school. Since 1978 he has exhibited widely in Sri Lanka and abroad. His works are also included in the collections of the Queensland Art Gallery Australia, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum Japan, John Moore's University Art Collection Liverpool and Fine Arts Museum of Udmurtia, Izhevsk, Russia. His public monuments include the Monument to the Disappeared in Seeduwa and the Monument to Neelan Tiruchelvam at Kynsey Terrace, Colombo.

### **Jeanne Samuel**

**Humanitarian aid and development professional**

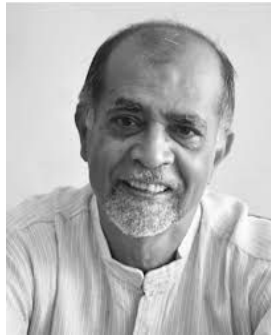
Jeanne has worked in the humanitarian aid and development sector in Sri Lanka and Vietnam over the past 30 years where she held senior management positions with local and international NGOs, bilateral aid agencies and the United Nations. She graduated at the London South Bank University, UK in Applied Biology and has a Master's degree in Conflict, Security and Development from the University of Bradford, UK. She has spent her working life with the physically challenged, children, people affected by armed conflict, internally displaced persons, and women headed-households in addition to working on the community development, livelihood



initiatives and building capacities of local grassroots organizations. She has worked as Consultant to the Asia Foundation on the implementation of the National Language Policy in Sri Lanka and also served as a Consultant to the USAID funded SPICE Project. She is presently a Consultant to the Centre for the Handicapped in Kandy and a Trustee on The Board of Trustees of the Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust.

## Professor Jayadeva Uyangoda

**Professor of Political Science (Retired), Founding Member of CPA**

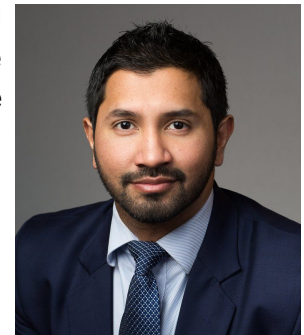


Jayadeva Uyangoda is a leading researcher and commentator on contemporary Sri Lankan politics. He recently retired as Senior Professor of Political Science, University of Colombo, and currently serves as Emeritus Professor at the University of Colombo. During August 2016-July 2017, he held the Rajni Kothari Chair in Democracy at the Center for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), New Delhi. Some of Professor Uyangoda's major writings have been on themes relating to Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict, its peace processes and its democracy. He has also been a lead researcher in the research program "The State of Democracy in South Asia", coordinated by the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), New Delhi.

## Aritha Wickramasinghe

**Lawyer and Activist**

Aritha is an international banking lawyer, a founding trustee of the global education initiative Think Equal and the Equality Director at iProbono. He was formerly a lawyer at prestigious international firms Clifford Chance and K&L Gates in London and also worked in the Chambers at the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Tanzania, where he worked on the Military 1 and Karera cases.



Aritha is a strong advocate of diversity and inclusion. He has advised various Governments and UN agencies on education and economic reform and human rights. He also led a successful challenge against the UK Government to recognise the identity of non-gendered persons. For his work, Aritha was ranked the No. 1 Future Leader by the *Financial Times* in their 2015 OUTstanding List.

Aritha has a BA in Political Science with Sociology from the University of Birmingham, UK; a Graduate Diploma in Law with a Commendation (Ranking 1) from the University of Birmingham, UK; and a Master of Laws (LLM) from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), University of London. He is a qualified practising Solicitor in the UK.

## Chandana L. de Silva

**Finance and Management Professional**

Chandana de Silva held financial and management positions in the U.K. including that of Chief Financial Officer for Level (3) Communications in Europe a NASDAQ quoted company and

Head of Financial Planning for British Telecoms PLC, while working in the UK for over twenty years.

Since moving back to Sri Lanka in 2002 he worked at MAS Holdings in a variety of roles and established the group's Supply Chain Management function, coordinated the group's strategy development in 2005-06, set up the MAS training Centre and was the Chief Executive Officer of MAS' Investment Division until December 2011. He presently serves as a consultant and adviser to clients in investment management, property development and the technology sector.

He is also a non-executive Director on the Boards of Eureka Technologies (Pvt) Limited, 24/7 Techies (Pvt) Ltd, Dunamis Capital PLC, Kelsey Developments PLC, First Capital Holdings PLC and its subsidiaries, Bairaha Farms PLC and the Executive Director of Sea-Change Partners Lanka (Pvt) Limited, which provides consulting and training in Negotiating and Influencing strategically. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants (in England & Wales as well as in Sri Lanka) and has a BSc. in Mathematics and Management from the University of London.



### **Dr. Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu**

#### **Executive Director**

Dr. Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu is the founder and Executive Director of the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA). He is also currently a member of the Foreign Policy Advisory Group and the Board of the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International and Strategic Studies.

Dr. Saravanamuttu has extensive experience with civil society in Sri Lanka. He is a founder director of the Sri Lanka chapter of Transparency International; a founding co-convener of the Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV); and the civil society alliance the Platform for Freedom. In 2004 he was an Eisenhower Fellow and he is currently Chairperson of the Eisenhower Fellows, Sri Lanka. He is also a Member of the Gratiaen Trust and the Regional Advisory Group of Amnesty International for Asia. In 2016, he was appointed the Secretary of the Task Force on Consultations on Mechanisms for Reconciliation (CTF) and in 2017 and short-listed for the Peace Prize awarded by the city of Ypres, Belgium.

Dr. Saravanamuttu received a BSc Econ. and a PhD in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), University of London, in 1979 and 1986, respectively. He lectured in International Politics at the University of Southampton, UK from 1984-92. He has presented numerous papers on governance and peace in Sri Lanka at a variety of international conferences and is widely quoted in the international and local media.



## 2018 in Review

### Public Interest Litigation

CPA advanced several Public Interest Litigation (PIL) cases in 2018 which were at the forefront of political governance in Sri Lanka. The objectives were to strengthen the civil society contribution to democratic peace and governance through PIL, to uphold the supremacy of the constitution and reinforce the rights of citizens.

- ***Intervention in Reference Made by the President on His Term of Office***

**11 January 2018:** CPA made representations intervening in the reference made by President Maithripala Sirisena to the Supreme Court regarding his term of office as President and whether it was for five or six years. CPA's intervention strongly emphasised that, as per the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution which the President himself had advanced, that the presidential term was for five years. The Supreme Court's Opinion concurred. CPA's intervention was based on its long held advocacy of reducing the arbitrary powers of the Executive Presidency.



Media cover: [The Hindu 13 Jan 2018 /News Summed Up 12 January 2018](#) / [The Hindu 15 Jan 2018 /News In Asia/Daily FT 16 Jan /Sunday Times 12 January /Sunday Leader 11 January /News Summed Up/ The Island/](#)

[Full audio of presentation](#) given by Senior Research Fellow Dr. Asanga Welikala at a Verité Research seminar September 2018, and an article by him on ["Why Former Presidents Cannot Run For Presidential Office Again"](#).

A full statement in response to the Supreme Court's reference can be accessed on [CPA's website](#).

[Dr Saravanamuttu speaks on the Political Crisis/ Grounds for Filing of Case](#)

on the [Supreme Court issues Stay Order](#)

- ***CPA Intervenes on the Challenge to the Proposed Twentieth Amendment to the Constitution***

**12th September 2018:** CPA and its Executive Director, Dr. Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, filed papers intervening in the petition filed by Udaya Gammanpila, MP challenging 'The Twentieth Amendment to the Constitution' (The Bill), a Private Member's Bill tabled in Parliament on 5 September 2018 by Vijitha Herath, MP. The proposed Bill sought to make significant changes to the office of the Executive President. In terms of the Bill, the President would no longer be the Head of Government and would be elected for a five-year term by a simple majority in Parliament. A full statement on the challenge to the proposed Twentieth Amendment can be accessed at [CPA's website](#).

Media cover: [DailyFT 17 September 2018 /Sunday Observer 16 September 2018 / DailyFt 18 September 2018 /Mirror Citizen 17 September 2018](#)

- ***CPA Intervenes on the Challenge to the Proposed Counter Terrorism Bill***

CPA had previously [raised concerns](#) that the CTA was as problematic as the legislation it was set to repeal, but has [noted](#) several times the need for public input and debate in the passage of the Act.

**17th October 2018:** CPA and its Executive Director, Dr. Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, filed papers intervening in the petition filed by Wimal Weerawansa MP challenging 'The Counter Terrorism Bill' (The Bill), tabled in Parliament 9 October 2018. The proposed Bill seeks to repeal and replace the archaic PTA which was initially enacted with the intention of being a temporary measure but was thereafter made permanent in 1982. CPA's intervention in this case is a reiteration of its longstanding position that the PTA needs to be repealed and any counter terrorism measures introduced should be in line with international human rights standards.

In an initial statement made by CPA on the Bill, it was noted that though the proposed bill is an improvement on the existing PTA, it still had room for potential abuse. CPA thus, through this intervening petition, sought to highlight that certain clauses are inconsistent with the

Constitution. Media: [Sunday Times 16 Sept 2018](#)/[The Wire 28 Sept 2018](#)/ [HRW](#)/ [Daily FT/ Morning 18 October](#).

See also [Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism](#) and the [Initial Comment on the Proposed Counter Terrorism Bill](#) which can be accessed at CPA's website.

- ***Fundamental Rights Application challenging the dissolution of Parliament***

**12 November 2018:** CPA challenged the Proclamation issued by President Sirisena purportedly dissolving Parliament. The President's actions followed his removal of Ranil Wickremesinghe as Prime Minister and his subsequent appointment of Mahinda Rajapaksa in replacement on 26 October 2018, sparking an unprecedented constitutional crisis in the country. CPA was the only civil society organisation to legally challenge the President's actions, which it maintained were illegal and unconstitutional. CPA as a petitioner was granted leave to proceed and, following making full submissions, the Supreme Court held unanimously on 13 December 2018, that the President's dissolution Proclamation was unconstitutional. The historic judgment was a strong signal of the Court's commitment to judicial independence, democracy, fundamental rights and the rule of law, all values CPA has long advocated for.

Media cover: [The Guardian 31 Oct 2018](#)/ [Washington Post 31 Oct 2018](#) /[India National Herald 14 Nov 2018](#) /[Commonwealth.org 5 Nov 2018](#) /[The National 6 Nov 2018](#) /[Washington Post 10 Nov 2018](#) /[Face the Nation 5 Nov 2018](#) /[The Hindu 10 Nov 2018](#) /[Washington Post 17 Dec 2018](#) / [AP Archives 13 Nov](#)/ [Ada Derena/SLBC](#)/

CPA advocacy on the constitutional crisis:

<https://www.cpalanka.org/cpa-statement-on-the-current-constitutional-crisis/>  
<https://www.cpalanka.org/constitutional-crisis-questions-and-answers-ii/>

- ***Fundamental Rights Petitions Challenging Prohibition of Sale of Alcohol to Women***

**23 January 2018:** CPA filed Two Fundamental Rights Petitions challenging the validity of an Excise Notification which sought to reintroduce the prohibition of women from manufacturing, collecting, bottling, selling or transporting liquor; the employment to do such; and for being "given" liquor within a tavern. The Petitions were filed on the basis of the violation of specific rights guaranteed in the Constitution, and advance CPA's firm insistence that regardless of whether a woman actually engages in these activities, her constitutional right to make that choice for herself should be respected to the same extent as that of a man.

The cases SC /FR/33/2018 and SC/FR/34/2018 were taken up on the 16th of July for support. CPA's statement on this case can be accessed on [our website](#).

Media cover: [Economy Next 23 Jan 2018](#) /[Aljazeera 19 Jan 2018](#) / [DailyFT 24 Jan 2018](#) /[Sunday Observer 7 Oct 2018](#) /[Reuters](#) /[Sunday Times 21 Jan 2018](#) /[Sunday Times 9 July 2018](#) /[South China Morning Post](#) / [Ada Derena](#)

Links to CPA statements on these cases:

<http://www.cpalanka.org/the-centre-for-policy-alternatives-vs-attorney-general-sc-sd-24-2017-in-re-the-twentieth-amendment-to-the-constitution/>  
<http://www.cpalanka.org/cpa-statement-in-response-to-supreme-court-reference-01-2018/>  
<http://www.cpalanka.org/two-fundamental-rights-petitions-challenging-excise-notification-no-4-2018/>

## Land Rights

- ***Arunasalam Kunabalasingham and 1473 others vs. A. Sivaswamy and 2 others (CA (Writ) 125/2013)*** – CPA supported filing a writ application on 15 May 2013 on behalf of Petitioners who were owners of land located in the Northern Province in the High Security Zone. The case was filed to challenge moves by the government to take over traditional lands constituting approximately 6381 acres for a purported public purpose. The reason for the supposed land acquisition as per the notices issued was to establish a ‘Defence Battalion Headquarters’. CPA’s litigation here is part of its longstanding land rights advocacy, particularly for landowners in the North and East who face ongoing difficulties regaining land from the state following the armed conflict, and preventing further irregular takeover of land. The case is pending.
- ***Maheshwary Thambirajah and 4 others vs. W. Waragoda and 6 others (CA (Writ) 376/2014)*** – CPA supported filing a writ application on 30 October 2014 for Petitioners who are owners of land located in Eluthumaduviel in the district of Jaffna. The case challenged the steps taken by the government to unlawfully take over their lands constituting approximately 52 acres for the purported public purpose of establishing a ‘training school under 52nd Brigade Headquarters’. The case is pending.

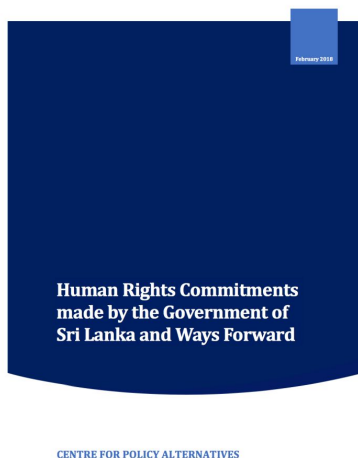
## Freedom of Assembly

- ***A.M.D.M Adasuriya vs. Malin Perera, OIC Slave Island, Police Station (SC FR 192/2014) and W.N.S Ranathunge & 11 others (SC FR 193/2014)*** CPA supported filing two fundamental rights applications in July 2014. In one, the petitioner was a student of the University of Peradeniya who, along with fellow students and six other Universities (Colombo, Jayawardenapura, Ruhuna, Jaffna and Eastern Province), staged a peaceful protest campaigns all over the country, pursuant to a decision of the University Grants Commission, that the duration of the degrees they were following was reduced to a three year degree. CPA’s litigation is part of its advocacy on freedom of assembly and expression and prevention of torture. The judgments on the cases are pending.

# Democracy, Governance and Human Rights

## ***Report on Human Rights Commitments made by the Government of Sri Lanka and Ways Forward***

February 2018



2018 marked the 70th anniversary of Sri Lanka's independence. Long overdue and much anticipated local government elections took place under a new electoral system on 10 February. These elections were the first under the government elected in January 2015; the first to be conducted by the independent Election Commission established under the 19th Amendment to the Constitution in April 2015; and the first with a historic 25% allocation of seats for women. They were to be followed by Provincial Council elections later in the year and depending on constitutional reform, a Presidential Election in 2019, and a General Election in 2020. The results of these elections will impact the course of constitutional reform and transitional justice, the latter half of the Sirisena presidency and the future of the National Unity Government. Limited steps towards improving human rights were taken by the current government, but the pace of progress slowed substantially, with persistent regressive moves imperilling human rights. Further, there is widespread concern about the status of promised constitutional reforms and

transitional justice processes. Consequently, the government's commitment to the broad reform agenda it was elected on, is in serious doubt.

This year was also a crucial year in the context of a number of important deadlines established through Sri Lanka's participation in international human rights mechanisms. Of these, UNHRC Resolution 30/1 of 2015 remains a key document concerning human rights, transitional justice and reconciliation in the country, committing the government to enact a comprehensive set of measures by the extended deadline of March 2019. Sri Lanka's human rights record was also reviewed in the third cycle of the UN's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process in November 2017, where the country made 12 voluntary pledges and supported 177 recommendations thereby accepting a diverse range of obligations. Additionally, Sri Lanka's re-entry into the European Union's (EU) GSP+ scheme in 2017 provides trade concessions from the EU on condition of improving compliance with 27 international conventions. This expansive body of international commitments is reaffirmed domestically by the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017-21 (NHRAP). Additionally, recommendations made in the report of the Consultation Task Force as well as benchmarks created by civil society actors create a substantive framework and timeline for progress on human rights in Sri Lanka.

In the context of these key milestones and deadlines there must be reflection on present human rights commitments, the status of their implementation and specific timeframes for their possible implementation. CPA prepared this report as a reflection of the commitments and action that is

possible within particular time periods with the purpose of encouraging their full implementation. The report is available for download on the CPA [website](#).

CPA was also a signatory to a [Civil Society Statement](#) to mark this event.

Watch '[Sri Lanka at 70](#)' on CPA's Vimeo channel.

### ***Understanding a State of Emergency***

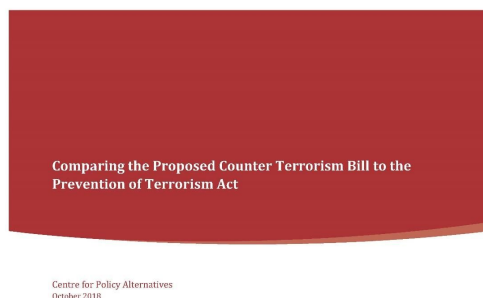
March 2018

Sri Lanka's last state of emergency lasted for 28 years, and was terminated in August 2011, having continuously been extended by governments since it was first declared in 1983. On 6 March 2018, President Maithripala Sirisena declared a state of emergency in order to address and contain the violence unfolding in the Kandy district, where violent attacks on the Muslim community saw widespread property damage and two deaths. Recent statements by the Presidential Secretary and the Prime Minister on its extension have raised concern.

[This brief](#) illustrates basic information on the terms, legal procedure and concerns regarding the curtailing of citizens' rights around a state of emergency.

### ***'Comparing the Proposed Counter Terrorism Bill to the Prevention of Terrorism Act'***

October 2018.



This document by CPA is a comparison of the proposed Counter Terrorism Act (CTA) with the legal regime operating under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) and regulations. The present document is limited to a comparison with the PTA to ensure there is a timely comment on the CTA and to inform the public on specific areas critical for individual liberties and fundamental freedoms. The report was disseminated to MPs, Embassies, UN, NGOs, INGOs, civil society and

stakeholders.

Find the document [Comparing the Proposed Counter Terrorism Bill to the Prevention of Terrorism Act](#) on CPA's website.





Signature Campaign 2017 Photo source: <https://politicalwomensl.wordpress.com/news>

## Women's Political Representation

### ***Capacity Strengthening of Women Local Government Officials***

CPA sought to strengthen the capacity of women councillors and officials attached to local authorities across the country to better execute their work in the councils and to encourage them to contest in Provincial Council Elections. Programmes were carried out across 12 Districts in the Western, Central, Sabaragamuwa and North Central Provinces, engaging both elected officials and prospective candidates. Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners of Local Government contributed to the programmes held and a total of 42 training programmes were held to benefit women councillors. The project was part of CPA's efforts to improve women's political representation across the island.

### ***Empowering prospective women activists through voter education***

CMEV initiated a voter education programme called 'Provincial Council Elections Voter Education and Outreach Programme'. This programme aimed to create awareness for women candidates who are willing to contest in the next provincial councils elections island-wide. CMEV also planned a series of district-level awareness workshops inviting selected prospective candidates. The first in this series of workshops was conducted on 17 June 2018 in Jaffna. More than 50 female prospective candidates and activists attended the event. Those who attended for the first time received materials as well as knowledge on the new PC election system and stated that they were further motivated to contest in the next Northern Provincial Council elections.

The objectives of this project were to enhance Civic Participation and Civic Education and to improve women's and PWDs' political participation in Provincial Council elections under a new electoral system.



*Dr Saravanamuttu speaks to media at the Supreme Court 2018 (Source: Ada Derena)*

## Constitutional Reform

### ***Public Opinion Poll on the Constitution of Sri Lanka***

While opinion surveys are considered to be a powerful medium through which the general public can voice their opinion on issues that matter to them, they are also one of the best scientific methods that could help policymakers, academics and those in power understand the pulse of the citizenry.

Campaigning on a platform of good governance, the Yahapalanaya regime sought to bring about many reforms to the existing constitution. Although some of the initiatives have been successful, many contentious reforms are yet to be addressed but have been delayed due to various setbacks faced in the process of reformation. Added to this, the constitutional coup that transpired in October 2018 highlighted the lack of political will by the government, to proceed with the promised constitutional reformation and saw the entire process come to a complete halt.

It was against this backdrop that CPA Social Indicator conducted an island wide opinion poll that aimed to capture public perception on the manner in which people perceive the contents of the constitution and their perception of the constitutional crisis that occurred in October 2018. SI strongly believes that this survey will make an invaluable contribution towards understanding the citizens' knowledge, perception and attitudes towards the constitution and constitutional reform process.



This national poll was conducted as a means of better understanding public perception in relation to the current constitution of Sri Lanka, its reform process, as well as key areas that the Government should focus on addressing - going forward. Preparatory work was carried out late 2018 for the survey to be initiated the following year. The programme worked towards expanding the space for public debate on governance issues both at the district and national level.

Media cover: [Sunday Observer 17 June 2018](#)

## **19th Amendment, Presidential Powers and Parliament**

*Saama Vimarshi Periodical March –April 2018 (Vol 15, Issue 01)*



*Saama Vimarshi* ("Peace Monitor") is an in depth and analytical periodical which aims to enhance knowledge on current political trends and stimulate intellectual political discussion among Sri Lankans. The periodical is part of CPA's efforts to develop a tradition of engaged intellectualism within Sri Lanka's civic sphere. CPA published one volume of *Saama Vimarshi* in 2018, gathering articles in both Sinhala and Tamil related to the **19th Amendment, Presidential Powers and Parliament**, and disseminated the publication across schools, universities, public libraries, government offices, NGOs, INGOs, opinion and among policy makers. (8000 copies were printed and disseminated among stakeholders, 5000 in Sinhala and 3000 in Tamil).

## **Implications of Culture for Constitution-Building**

Culture affects constitutional arrangements in all parts of the world. The third [Melbourne Forum on Constitution Building in Asia and the Pacific](#) explored these issues with primary reference to the countries of Asia and the Pacific as a vast and diverse region of the world that represents a substantial component of the global constitutional experience. The third Melbourne Forum was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 15-16 October 2018 and was jointly organised by International IDEA, the Constitution Transformation Network and the Centre for Policy Alternatives. The topic of the 2018 Melbourne Forum was "*Implications of Culture for Constitution-Building*".



*Melbourne Forum 2018: CPA Senior Researcher Dr Asanga Welikala is fourth from right (front row)*



*On August 2, the Joint Opposition held the “Jana Bala Sena” rally, beginning at Lipton Circus and ending at the Vihara Maha Devi Park amphitheatre. Reference was made to the number of large infrastructure projects initiated by the previous Government, such as the Hambantota Port. In 2012, there had been a total of 34 ships, according to the Sri Lanka Ports Authority. An RTI request lodged by Groundviews found that even in 2017, only 23 ships had docked at the Port. Photo source: [Groundviews](#)*

## Right to Information

CPA has been at the forefront of advocacy for the Right to Information (RTI) for over 15 years, helping draft earlier versions of RTI legislation and being involved in advocacy and public awareness efforts for the current RTI Act which was passed in 2016 and came into operation in early 2017.

### ***Empowering Citizens to Use the RTI Regime***

As part of a project titled *Empowering Citizens to Use the RTI Regime and Shape the Interpretation of the National Security Exemption*, CPA played an important role in shaping and refining precedent on the RTI Act’s national security exemption, by encouraging information requests relating to transitional justice issues from citizens across Sri Lanka. The project developed the RTI capacity of selected individuals so they are able to follow the RTI process comprehensively, and from this to broadly develop RTI jurisprudence.

During 2018, CPA completed a number of workshops with partner organisations across the country (Families of the Disappeared in Galle, Matara, Hambantota and Batticaloa; Women's Resource Centre in Kurunegala; Muslim Women's Development Trust in Puttalam; and Mannar Women's Development Federation in Mannar). The RTI request ideas sourced from the workshops were submitted as RTI requests progressively through 2018 and 2019.



CPA also produced user-friendly resources including guides, infographics and other informative material in the three languages. Community leaders and affected individuals were guided on navigating the entire RTI process as well as the submission of RTI requests identified as the most suitable through training workshops.

250 Guides were printed and distributed during workshops in Galle (April 28), Hambantota (May 25), Kurunegala (16 June) in Batticaloa (July 7), Mannar (July 16) and Puttalam (July 17). The workshops focused on developing participants' knowledge of the RTI Act and the RTI process, discussing what kinds of issues the RTI Act could be used to address and determining what information obtained could be used for. More than 200 people participated in the workshop series and CPA submitted a number of RTI requests on issues commonly raised by participants from the different communities to a number of public authorities. CPA is

currently awaiting response to these requests and following up with the appeals process where necessary.

## RTI Helpdesk Hotline 0113-030-463



CPA Outreach now maintains an RTI help desk to help citizens with inquiries concerning RTI. **(hotline no: 011-30-30 463)**

Public authorities and the RTI Commission were not fully functional during the period of the constitutional crisis from October 2018: many public authorities did not accept or process RTI requests completely, and the ones that did, did not process the requests within the stipulated time periods. Numerous public officials were also dismissed and replaced

during this period, making it unclear as to who the Information and Designated Officers were. These institutions only commenced complete operations from late January onwards, impacting the status of the requests and appeals lodged, and pushing back the timeframes for their processing.

The help desk tries to ensure that empowered citizens are further guided and provided assistance with regard to how they could file cases, draft their concerns and resolve their inquiries and ambiguities with regards to RTI complaints on a day –to day basis. A Facebook page was created aiming at further increasing awareness on the RTI help desk maintained at CPA. Following these efforts, there has been increased awareness of citizen's RTI and more citizens taking action.





CPA also obtained a significant amount of information requested by communities (with regard to national security), from a variety of public authorities. This information has been relayed back to those communities. It has also managed to instil RTI as a resource available for resolving everyday issues (beyond issues relating to national security) in these target communities. According to partner organisations citizens are now, more than ever, successfully resolving various issues through strategic use of the RTI Act including addressing problems relating to public infrastructure, welfare payments, school issues, public appointments and health coverage. CPA's work has managed to foster RTI use for both addressing issues on national security as well as more broadly as an everyday resource.

### ***Producing Journalistic Stories using RTI-elicited information***

Parallel to its work in research and advocacy on RTI, CPA worked with journalists in digital media in promoting the use of RTI to obtain public information for their reporting and to improve the quality of investigative reporting. There was much more scope than previously to generate stories on the process of filing requests, stories on the difference in language response including stories on disaster response and videos on the way communities outside Colombo used the RTI Act. CPA continued working towards more visualisation/narration of the stories as the project continued.

RTI requests were filed at the following institutions to name just a few:

- The Navy- on the number of Navy officers training in China
- The Military – on the number of journalists/activists that the military has intelligence reports on, and breakdown by ethnicity
- DMC – On mapping and plans for disaster relief, details of Council meetings
- CERT On curation of social media accounts and guidelines for posting on social media
- Sri Lanka Ports Authority- on the number of ships docked at Hambantota Port
- Labour Department - on subscription fees for estate workers, for unions
- Wildlife Department – on human-elephant conflict/collision with trains

A [short video interview](#) was shot with Mathuri from the Information Commission to mark Right to Information Day. Also see: <https://twitter.com/MaatramSL/status/1050690266749751297>

### ***Public Advocacy: Awareness Raising Program on Effective Use of RTI***

CPA held a series of awareness raising workshops on the RTI Act for Local governance representatives, local governance officials and civic activists who were sensitised to the importance of release of necessary public information as an impetus for transparent and participatory governance. Three workshops were also held respectively in Galle, Kantale and Colombo on 28th, 30th and 31st of October 2018, jointly facilitated by CPA and CHRI in India with FNF acting as the liaison party in relation to financial resources. This project raised awareness on the importance of active engagement by the public in exercising RTI. By extension, CPA intends to sustain a more integrated and responsive network at the grassroots level by promoting RTI awareness raising among newly appointed local governance representatives, public servants and civic activists at a

local level. Successful implementation will further empower targets groups to exert their Right to Information, to constructively uphold the values of citizen centered democratic governance and to prevent this right from being hindered. Project objectives also included enhancing public awareness on the latest developments with regards to the Right to Information in Sri Lanka as well as in India.

A Summary Report highlighting common and major gaps including the long-term as well as short-term suggestions made by the audience was presented to the RTI Commission. More than two dozen Right to Information cases were filed, seeking justice from various authorities/public institutions/finance and non-financial institutions. Effective relationships and a sustained network were built up with a significant number of local governance representatives which will assist future activities in strengthening Right to Information and in sustaining good governance and transparency.

## **Study on Information Requests Submitted to Public Authorities and Responses Received under the Right to Information Act**

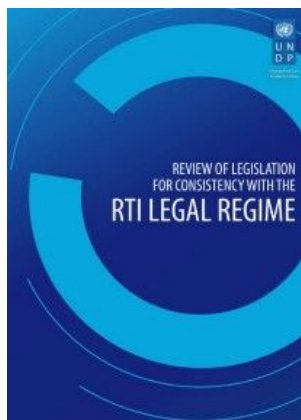
Sri Lanka's RTI Act provides the mechanism for citizens to oversee the decision-making and actions of public authorities. CPA's engagement in RTI activism began in 2003, with its involvement in the drafting of a Freedom of Information Bill which, though approved by Cabinet in 2004, was never debated due to the premature dissolution of parliament. Since then CPA has pushed for the right to information to be included in the 19th Amendment and advocated for the implementation of the current RTI Act. CPA has undertaken numerous community outreach activities, training and research exercises to educate and empower Sri Lankan citizens to fully exercise their right to information.

The study, launched 27 September in Colombo, investigated and highlighted weaknesses of the existing procedures in the RTI Act, and made recommendations to strengthen people's right to information. This research sheds light on the attitudes of officers in public authorities regarding RTI, as well as the practical difficulties faced by citizens in seeking information under the Act.

This study is available in [Sinhala](#), [Tamil](#) and [English](#).

Media cover: [DailyFT 17 November 2018](#) [Daily FT 25 December 2018](#)

## ***Review of Sri Lanka's RTI Regime***



The UNDP commissioned CPA to conduct a mapping and review of legislation conflicting with Sri Lanka's RTI legal regime.

This report contains an analysis of the legislative provisions which ostensibly conflict with the provisions of Article 14A of the Constitution and the RTI Act. The report also briefly explores the Sri Lankan judiciary's approach to the Right to Information and the potential difficulties and questions the judiciary will have to respond to when dealing with cases relating to the RTI regime.

The report can be accessed on the [UNDP website](#).

Centre for Policy Alternatives- Annual Report 2018



***The Right To Know:** 70 year old Yogaradhi says she cannot remember when her grandson, Alfred Thinu, went missing, or how. “There were more than 200,000 people running for their lives. We don’t know where we lost him in that process. We were around eight to nine persons amidst thousands of people. We didn’t know what was happening. Our heads were heavy with the belongings that we were carrying.”*

*Yogaradhi and her family wrote to 40 Army camps from Chettikulam camp where they were stationed. At the time, the military said that her grandson was at Vavuniya Saivapragasam school.*

*The above Virtual Reality (VR) video was shot by Selvaraja Rajasegar, editor of Maatram, using the Gear 360, which records immersive photography and video. This series was shot to mark the International Day of the Victims for Enforced Disappearances commemorated August 30. It highlights the stories of two women, remembering their missing family members.*

## Transitional Justice

Throughout 2018, CPA was engaged in a number of actions to ensure the government adhered to its commitments on transitional justice and to fill key gaps in public knowledge of transitional justice processes.

### **Gender Violence across War and Peace**

This project addresses issues of gender justice within Sri Lanka’s reform agenda. CPA Senior Researcher Bhavani Fonseka prepared a working paper on women and transformative justice in Sri Lanka in July 2018. This followed from a 2 day workshop held by CPA, the Centre for Women, Peace and Security and the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) in September 2017. This workshop was part of the Strategic Network on Gender Violence across War and Peace, based at the LSE Centre for Women Peace and Security and funded by the UK Economic and

Social Research Council. Workshop participants included more than 40 representatives from civil society organisations in Colombo.



The workshop examined Sri Lanka's reform agenda with a specific focus on commitments within the justice sector and transitional justice and the extent to which it is likely to lead to genuine transformation. It also focused on issues and challenges from comparative contexts and contrasted these with Sri Lanka's own experiences and dynamics with present processes. The knowledge and experience shared by experts and panellists, resulted in greater understanding and clarity among participants on gender justice transformation, legal and policy framework and practice, global and local perspectives, challenges and prospects for the future.

The working paper on [Gender and Transformative Justice in Sri Lanka](#) is available at the LSE website.

## A Brief Guide to the Judicature (Amendment) Act No 9 of 2018

17 July 2018

CPA released this brief guide to raise awareness on salient points in relation to the Judicature (Amendment) Act No 9 of 2018 enacted in May 2018. As the guide indicates, if fully implemented, the present legislation can address delays with justice with specific cases in Sri Lanka. While this legislation addresses several areas requiring reforms, CPA also notes several concerns that require further attention and urges the authorities to also consider addressing delays in relation to other areas. Download the guide [here](#).

Also issued:

[Civil society statements on the Reparations Bill](#) (October 2018)

[Civil society statements on the Death Penalty](#)



Media Cover: [Sunday Times 12 Aug](#) / [Sunday Observer 7 Oct](#)

## Community Memorialisation Project

The Community Memorialization Project by Search for Common Ground (SFCG) is an archive of 320 village histories and life stories of individuals and groups, collected and archived to memorialize the experiences of violence and conflict in three Sri Lankan districts. Using the archive, the project creates opportunities for dialogue within and between communities on our country's past, and the future we as citizens want to create for it and the next generation of Sri Lankans.

CPA collaborated with SFCG in this project with the objective of creating an environment that acknowledges and protects multiple historical memories on violent conflicts across socio-ethnic, political and regional divides in Sri Lanka. CPA undertook the activities of conducting a field briefing



to the field enumerators, conducting face to face interviews with 300 respondents from Matara, Mannar and Ampara and providing a final dataset to the donor.



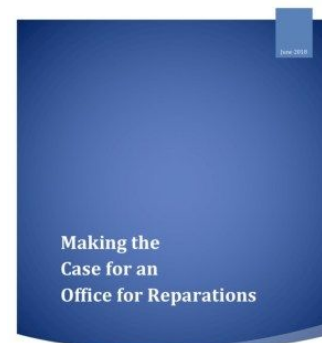
Photo credits: [memorymap.lk](http://memorymap.lk) (Photo story of a conflict survivor from Karaitivu)

More information about the project is available at: <http://memorymap.lk/>. Find the project report at [http://www.about.memorymap.lk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/2\\_The-Community-Memorialisation-Project.pdf](http://www.about.memorymap.lk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/2_The-Community-Memorialisation-Project.pdf)

## ***Making the Case for an Office for Reparations***

July 2018

Reparations are an essential part of transitional justice and focus on recognising and repairing past abuses. In 2015, the Government of Sri Lanka recognised the right to reparations by committing to the establishment of an Office for Reparations at the 30th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council through UNHRC Resolution 30/1. Despite this commitment, there has been no real movement on this issue with limited discussions on reparations and the scope of such an entity.





CPA compiled a critique of the Reparations Bill which was submitted by civil society to the PM and the Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms (SCRM). Three meetings were held with members of civil society in June and July to discuss aspects of the Bill and identify advocacy strategies.

In this critique, CPA focused on the need for reparations in Sri Lanka and areas to consider in the establishment and operationalising of a future Office. CPA made the case that the design and implementation of a future Office and a reparations programme must be reflective of the Sri Lankan context and the grievances of its multiple and diverse victims. This is critical in a context where CPA's research demonstrates discrepancies in the process and amounts allocated for compensation previously. Equally important is for reparations to be designed in a transparent and inclusive manner, being explicit about its purpose and ensuring that it is not a substitute to the other pillars of transitional justice.

Finally, CPA urged that a reparations programme be based on a rights framework to ensure cohesion.

The report is available in English on [CPA's website](#).



*Photo source: Vikalpa*

### ***Missing Persons and Enforced Disappearances***

CPA continued to push strongly for the immediate operationalisation of the Office of Missing Persons (OMP), which despite being legislated for in 2016, faced numerous delays in being set up. The OMP was finally constituted at the end of 2017 to begin its work in the following year.

In February 2018 CPA signed a joint civil society statement expressing “deep disappointment in the process through which the legislation on the OMP was enacted and the Office operationalised. Following the co-sponsoring of UN Human Rights Council resolution 30/1 in 2015, the Government of Sri Lanka made firm promises to establish the OMP by law, appoint credible and competent members to it and allocate adequate resources for its functioning. We appreciate the enactment of the OMP Act in August 2016. However, we have been concerned about the protracted delay in operationalising the Office as well as the flawed process through which the OMP Act is being implemented. We are also disturbed by the lack of transparency in the appointment of the OMP members.”

Read the statement in full [on the CPA website](#).

The [Interim Report](#) of the Office on Missing Persons was released in September 2018. Recommendations included improving the process of issuing Certificates of Absence, strengthening domestic legal mechanisms to criminalise enforced disappearances, address impunity for disappearances, repeal the PTA and provide reparations for affected families.

Media cover: [A Roadmap to Victims Justice : Third Spot Report](#)  
[Freedom on the Net 2018](#) [Freedom on the Net 2019](#)

The protest in Kilinochchi by families of the disappeared reached its [one year mark](#) on February 20th 2018. During this time they have met twice with the President and been promised answers in their search for justice. There has been a loss of trust in state mechanisms of transitional justice such as the Office on Missing Persons.

Media: [BBC 10th September 2018](#)/ [ROAR.lk](#)

Vikalpa marked 2018 International Day to Commemorate Victims of Enforced Disappearances with a documentary about Jayakumari Balendran [“I’m sure He Will Return”](#)

Media cover: [Lanka News Web](#) / [BBC News 10 Sept](#) / [Sri Lankan Brief](#) / [Independent](#)



*University Students learning about the Official Language Policy of Sri Lanka prior to field work for a Language Audit*

## Language Rights

CPA has continuously advocated for state institutions to implement national language policies and ensure equal language rights for all Sri Lankans. To date CPA-led initiatives have submitted over 17,000 complaints to local institutions and independent Commissions and advanced litigation on language rights. This advocacy has secured some important victories, including ensuring trilingual printings of legislation; trilingual transport notices and announcements; trilingual documentation by finance companies; and undertakings to provide trilingual labelling of consumer and medical products. 2018 continued to build on these advances.

## Promoting Language Equality and Reconciliation at a National Level



Supported by the Royal Netherlands Embassy, CPA worked to champion language equality by tackling challenges and obstacles rooted in national institutions, to facilitate effective language policy implementation. Recognising the implications of language equality upon reconciliation, CPA carried out a comprehensive analysis of language policies in practice at the institutional level to determine their actual adherence to the Official Language Policy (OLP). This analysis was used to identify gaps/ challenges specific to each institution. Based on the findings, a set of long-and short-term

recommendations were presented to the relevant ministries aimed at creating systematic institutional change across government, to promote effective implementation of the OLP.

During 2018, CPA held a series of awareness raising workshops on language policies targeted at civic activists at the district level to educate civic activists on OLP and the legal procedures set forth in this regard in the constitution. Our objectives were to strengthen and promote the rights pertaining to bilingual literacy at a regional and grassroots level. Effective networks were established with a large number of government officials (in 49 ministries) which will be helpful in future achievements in strengthening language rights and sustaining reconciliation.

CPA carried out an Audit of Language Rights in 49 Central Government Institutions and produced institution specific reports for each of these, outlining specific gaps/ challenges faced by each ministry along with recommendations and suggestions for effective implementation of OLP.

## **Survey on the Implementation of Official Languages Policy at Ministerial Level in Sri Lanka**



CPA carried out a detailed study identifying challenges to proper implementation of OLP at National /Institutional level. This survey focused on the extent to which each of the ministries adopted the guidelines set out by the Ministry of National Co-Existence, Dialogue and Official Languages when implementing Official Languages Policy, and the core challenges and issues faced in doing so. The report highlighted common and major gaps and made long-term and short-term suggestions for consideration by the line ministry in future strategy planning. The report was launched 30 May 2018 and

findings, challenges, recommendations were formally presented to the all the stakeholders including Ministry officials, Members of Parliament, other representatives of Civil Society organisations and Media. More than 60 RTI cases were also filed relating to the breach of language rights.

The report is available at the CPA website in [English /Tamil /Sinhala](#).

## **Language Rights Cases**

### ***The Centre for Policy Alternatives vs National Medicines Regulatory Authority & 6 others - SPFR 102/2016***

CPA's Senior Researcher Lionel Guruge filed a fundamental rights petition 21 March 2016 seeking an order directing health authorities to ensure all labels and packaging containing information pertaining to medicines, medical devices and products are in Sinhala and Tamil as both official languages of Sri Lanka. The challenge asserted that effective access to medicine and medical services required the proper administration of language rights in parallel – and as such that current practices of labelling in only English violates language rights. This litigation was advanced following previous complaints made by CPA on the same matter, to the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka. Following Supreme Court directives issued to the National Medicine Regulatory Authority (NMRA), strategic meetings were arranged with stakeholders including pharmaceutical industry representatives, to find appropriate methods to incorporate OLP in



medicines. The NMRA also [directed](#) all marketing authorisation holders of medicine to implement official language policy in labelling of medicines. With effect from 1st January 2020, therefore, it is directed that generic names should be included in Sinhala and Tamil by use of a sticker. Furthermore for 5 selected very commonly used medications a patient information leaflet has to be included, as a start, with instructions in both languages according to a prescribed format. The case is ongoing.

Links: [Sunday Times \(15th January 2017\)](#), [Language Rights Advocacy by CPA](#)

NMRA directive: <https://nmra.gov.lk/images/PDF/languagepolicy/Letter-of-directive-2-1.pdf>



## Civic Media

CPA's Civic Media Team collates a network of civic media platforms: *Groundviews* in English, *Vikalpa* in Sinhala and *Maatram* in Tamil. The team uses a range of genres and media to highlight alternative perspectives on governance, human rights, hate speech, peace-building and other issues often not covered in mainstream media, particularly targeting the 18-34 year old demographic. Collectively, the sites have over 57,000 followers on Facebook, over 70,000 followers on Twitter and over 1,500 followers on Instagram, over 7,600 subscribers on Youtube, while its WhatsApp groups collectively have over 500 participants. The work of the Civic Media Team is followed by key opinion and policymakers locally and internationally and is often re-published in mainstream media.

In 2018 the Civic Media Team continued their work reporting on issues relating to rights, democracy and governance, using technology to tell stories in an engaging and interactive way, through photostories, infographics and data-driven reporting.

CPA's citizen journalism platforms remain unique actors in the country's media landscape, often covering issues ignored or underreported in mainstream media, such as the military's land occupation in Iranaitheevu island; the dark side of microfinance schemes; and the online harassment faced by female politicians. The Civic Media team's emphasis on trilingual coverage led to the same underreported issues being covered in all three languages – a rare occurrence in Sri Lanka where polarization across language is common.

Topics covered included constitutional reform, transitional justice, religious intolerance, and hate speech among other subjects. In March 2018, a series of riots broke out in Ampara on the Eastern Coast, and Digana in the Central Province, targeting Muslims. The incidents highlighted the spread of hate and misinformation on social media, prompting content aimed at improving digital media literacy.

Stories included:

**70 Years of Independence** – February 2018 - a series of videos and articles marking 70 years of Sri Lanka's Independence, from the point of view of communities often left out of the dominant narrative

**Leaked:** The [Report of the Saleem Marsoof Committee on MMDA Reforms](#) (May 4, 2018) (cross-translated to Tamil here-[கசிடந்தது: சலூம் மர்சூப் ஆணைக்குழுவின் அறிக்கை](#) Groundviews was the first platform to release the Saleem Marsoof Committee report.

**Remembrance Day** – May 18, 2018 - Vikalpa (in Sinhala) coverage of Remembrance Day celebrations in Mullaitivu - [#MAY18 | මේ සිහිකිරීම් ඉල්ලා සිටින්නේ 'යුක්තිය' මිස අන්තිසිවක් නොවේ!](#) – May 18: In this remembrance we are asking only for justice and [#MAY18 | මුල්ලිවෙක්කාල් සිහිකිරීම් සහ හමුදා දන්සල්](#) - May 18: Remembrance and army charity. Groundviews used Google Earth imagery to note changes in the landscape 9 years on - [Remembering, Nine Years On](#). Maatram compiled a photo essay on the exploitative impact of microfinance in the North for Remembrance Day Campaign. [கையேந்தும் கலாசாரத்தைத் தந்ததுவிட்டுப்போன 2009](#)

**35 Years Later** – July 2018 - a series of photo stories and articles reflecting on 35 years since Black July, or July 1983 on Groundviews. Vikalpa ran a social media campaign of short memories, reflections and thoughts on how to prevent another Black July - with one post a day for the month.

**Reporting From Digana** – Coverage on aftermath of riots in Digana - [නුවරින් මෙපිටට නැසුණු කතා...! And ජාතිවාදී මැර කල්ලිවලට, රාජ්‍ය ආරක්ෂාවට සිටි 'පොලීසිය හා STF' තව දුන්නාද?](#) [Exclusive] Cross translation on Groundviews – **Untold Stories from Kandy**

**Open letter to Facebook:** Implement Your Own Community Standards – Written by CPA and signed by 13 civil society organisations, as Mark Zuckerberg testified before the Senate, highlighting the spread of hate speech and violence against women and the LGBTIQ community on Facebook. Facebook subsequently [responded to the open letter](#). Sinhala translation here: [ලේස්වූක් සමාගමට](#)



විවෘත ලිපියක්: 'ඔබගේ ජර්ජා ජර්මනීන් ක්රියාත්මක කරන්න' and Tamil here: [பேஸ்புக் நிறுவனத்திற்கு ஒரு கிறந்த மடல்: தங்களது Community Standards ஐ நடைமுறைப்படுத்துங்கள்](#)



Photo source: Vikalpa

### **INFOGRAPHIC: 10 Types of Mis And Disinformation**

A Series of infographics looking at misinformation, disinformation and photo and video verification in the wake of violence in Digana in March (subsequently translated into Sinhala and Tamil)

**Campaigns for Disappearances Day** – August 30, 2018

**Fragile Hope, Firm Resolve** - Groundviews story on Enforced Disappearances Day

**නිදහන රාජ්‍යකින් අතුරුදහන්වුවන්ට යුක්තිය සොයා යාම වෙනුවෙන්!!!** – Vikalpa's video (in Sinhala)

Maatram shot a [video](#) in Virtual Reality (360 degree) format, meaning it is viewable using a VR headset, allowing the viewer to immerse themselves fully in the scene they are watching. To our knowledge, this is the first time a media institution has used VR technology in Sri Lanka

**Story of peaceful reclamation of land in Iranaitheevu** Story of peaceful reclamation of land in Iranaitheevu by Vikalpa - 'මේ භූමිය අපිට ඔාඡධයක්!' ඉරණකිව් මිනිසුන් නොනවතින අරගලයක

Cross Translation – [Iranaitheevu – a community reclaims its island home from the Navy](#)

Tamil: [இரணைதீவு: கடற்படையிடமிருந்து நிலத்தை மீளஎடுத்துக்கொண்ட மக்கள்](#)

**(Updated) பொறுப்புக்கூறல்: நல்லாட்சியின் வாக்குறுதிகள்** (Timeline): Accountability and Good Governance

**Stories on de-mining - [Clearing the minefields of Northern Sri Lanka: A task for survivors](#) and Tamil: [பிரித்தேவி: அச்சத்திலிருந்து மீளாத ரகுவேந்தன்](#): Landmines – Raghavan has not recovered yet (interview and photo essay with a victim of landmines)**

The series of infographics was widely shared on social media, including by journalists on the Journalist Sprint Facebook page (moderated by Internews) and by the Digital Storytelling campaign in Jaffna.

The short video series on constitutional reform (Breaking down the Interim Report) received coverage in mainstream media, including [Daily FT 2 Nov](#) and [Colombo Gazette 2 Nov](#), and helped educate the public on constitutional reform. Maatram's story on disappearances received global coverage on citizen journalism platform [Global Voices](#).

Several of the photo stories (e.g. Vikalpa's coverage of Iranaitheevu, Maatram's coverage of microfinance in the North) were the most in-depth coverage on a particular issue, and drove discussion and campaigning. Shortly after Maatram's story, Finance Minister Mangala Samaraweera announced the lifting of some restrictions on loans in the North, while Vikalpa was one of the only media organisations to accompany the protesters to Iranaitheevu in their attempt to reclaim their land- leading several others to travel there and raise awareness on the community.

The Civic Media Team's focus on innovation continued – Maatram was one of the first to use Virtual Reality Video in their reporting. The data-driven reporting on bots and trolls on social media was some of the only in-depth reporting on the topic.

The open letter to Facebook was responded to by the platform, opening up avenues for engagement

The team's emphasis on trilingual coverage led to the same underreported issues being covered in all three languages – a rare occurrence in Sri Lanka where polarization across language is often observed.

### ***Building better media using civic media as a tool to educate, empower and engage***

The project aimed at Improving respect for and application of freedom of expression through strengthening understanding of social media, and empowering journalists through training (including ethics and investigative techniques).

### ***Workshops on ethical reporting and reporting on gender in the North and East***

#### **On Digital Literacy and Ethics**

*Groundviews* carried out a series of discussions in Vavuniya and Batticaloa, with regional journalists and news producers. Facilitated primarily by senior journalist Amantha Perera, the sessions explored ethics in reporting, responsible depiction of identity in the news, gender sensitivity and social media usage. Discussions were centered around the responsible depiction of identity in reporting. The relevance of including details such as name, age, ethnicity, gender and location were considered. In addition, the broader ethics of disclosing details that might harm both the subject of the story and their wider community were also addressed. The *Groundviews* team also carried out sessions on gender sensitivity in media reporting.

During a session on social media, the facilitators were able to get a sense of the types of social media platforms and other tools that could be used by journalists, both in their personal and professional capacities. Part of the sessions included training on how to use tools like *reverse image search* for verification. The journalists at the sessions compiled several guidelines, based on their own experiences and observations, for ethical reporting in the media. These covered issues of relevance of certain details, the need for consent when obtaining photographs and the assessment of personal or community harm when writing their stories.

## **Public Interest Media Reporting**

CPA's trilingual civic media platforms – Groundviews, Vikalpa and Maatram – used the RTI Act to expose government wrongdoing in a number of high profile incidents. These exposés underlined how the media can use the RTI regime in the public interest and pointed out serious shortcomings in public authorities' responses to information requests.

### **Some content from Groundviews**

#### **Gender**

- [MMDA: Who is blocking Reform of this Discriminatory Law? \(12 August 2018\)](#)
- [Asma: One Strong Story – Well Said \(27 August 2018\)](#)
- [Abortion – Where is Sri Lanka on the Spectrum? \(2 September 2018\)](#)
- [Sri Lanka Should Take up the Challenge on LGBT Rights \(2 September 2018\)](#)

#### **Human Rights and Transitional Justice**

- [The Impact of Violence: Remembering Black July \(4 August 2018\)](#)  
From a series of articles looking at the continued impact of Black July, 35 years later.
- [A forgotten community: Remembering Black July \(7 August 2018\)](#)  
From a series of articles looking at the continued impact of Black July, 35 years later.
- [Deep Impact: Emmerson's Report reveals Lasting Impact of PTA \(8 August 2018\)](#)  
Civil society on the impact of the PTA, including debate on the need for a Counter Terrorism Act.
- [The Agony and Ecstasy of a Pogrom: July 1983 \(12 August 2018\)](#)
- [Remembering to Rebuild \(August 28\)](#)  
From a series of articles looking at the continued impact of Black July, 35 years later.
- [Fragile Hope, Firm Resolve \(30 August 2018\)](#)
- [On Capital Punishment \(1 September 2018\)](#)
- [The Right to Know \(12 September, 2018\)](#)  
A video using VR 360 technology to tell the story of the daily life of families of the disappeared – a translation of *Maatram's* story. This is the first time to our knowledge that VR was used in Sri Lanka for storytelling.
- [War Crimes in Sri Lanka – Stain or Slander? \(16 September 2018\)](#)

## UNFRAMED

Unframed' is a compelling collection of photography, curated by Vikalpa, the Sinhala civic media platform anchored to the CPA. The exhibition highlights and places in context critically acclaimed photography featured on the site or taken by editorial staff over ten years.



The collection may be viewed on [CPA's facebook page](#) and at <http://unframedsl.org/exhibition/>

Media cover: [Sunday Observer 28 Oct](#)



### ***CPA statement regarding the censorship of the Unframed Exhibition***

In an official statement, CPA said, “the action of this group of students at the University of Peradeniya to block and ban ‘Unframed’, particularly, in the manner they did, is an attack on the freedom of expression. It is both risible and tragic that this behaviour, invective and mindset continues to flourish within a tertiary education system intended to produce scholars and academics who can think critically.” The statement may be accessed on [CPA's website](#).

### ***Digital Battlefield***

Groundviews, in partnership with Counterpart International, launched a trilingual wiki on digital security, that includes quick guides and global updates on how citizens can stay safe online. The launch was followed by a discussion on online safety for women and marginalised communities. This wiki aims to provide women in Sri Lanka with basic knowledge they can use to protect themselves online. Resources from the Wiki are available at this link : <https://sites.google.com/site/digisecl/resources?authuser=0>



# Hate Speech

## ***Speaking out against Religious Hatred***

Following a number of incidents of religious violence from Kandy and Ampara in March 2018, CPA issued a statement calling on authorities to prevent further such violence and to arrest and prosecute individuals advocating racial and religious hatred. Find the statement [on CPA's website](#).

Media cover: [New York Times 23rd September 2018](#)

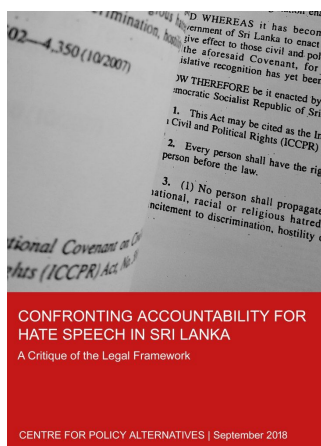


*Raisa Wickrematunge, Editor of Groundviews speaks on a panel at the The New York Times Athens Democracy Forum, sharing experiences from Sri Lanka of social media's impact on society, government & citizenship.*

*Photo via the Kofi Annan Foundation on Twitter*

CPA's research shows that [Facebook](#) has consistently been used to spread hate speech, highlighting ineffectiveness of bans if the platform doesn't increase Sinhala language moderation support and purveyors continue to enjoy impunity. Three previous research reports - written in the years 2014, 2015, 2016 - monitor the types of groups created for the purpose of spreading hate speech, the tactics with which they operate and the topics/language they use: [Liking Violence](#) / [Saving Sunil](#) / [Voting in Hate](#)

## ***Report on the Legal Framework pertaining to Hate Speech***



CPA assessed the legal framework on hate speech in Sri Lanka using research and interviews with key stakeholders, and published its findings in September 2018. The report identifies gaps in the framework and overbroad provisions that may not curb hate speech, leading to violations of fundamental rights and freedoms and the facilitation of excessive censorship. The report accordingly provides a range of recommendations for potential legal, policy and structural reforms. The report continues CPA's leading research in Sri Lanka on freedom of speech and hate crimes issues and reiterates that swift and decisive action is needed by the Government and other stakeholders to prevent future incidents and strengthen the rule of law. Media Cover: [DailyFT 28 August 2019](#)

Centre for Policy Alternatives- Annual Report 2018

***Weaponising 280 characters: What 200,000 tweets and 4,000 bots tell us about the state of Twitter in Sri Lanka*** (Sanjana Hattotuwa, Yudhanjaya Wijeratne & Raymond Serrato)

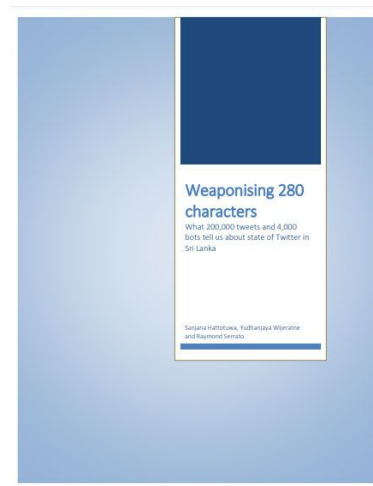
CPA has researched and tracked the growing usage and trends of social media, its mobilisation during election periods and the spread of hate speech on Facebook across several reports. [Groundviews'](#) latest investigation puts patterns and numbers to the way social media platforms, and subsequently the information they present us with, can be manipulated by individuals. Previous studies include:

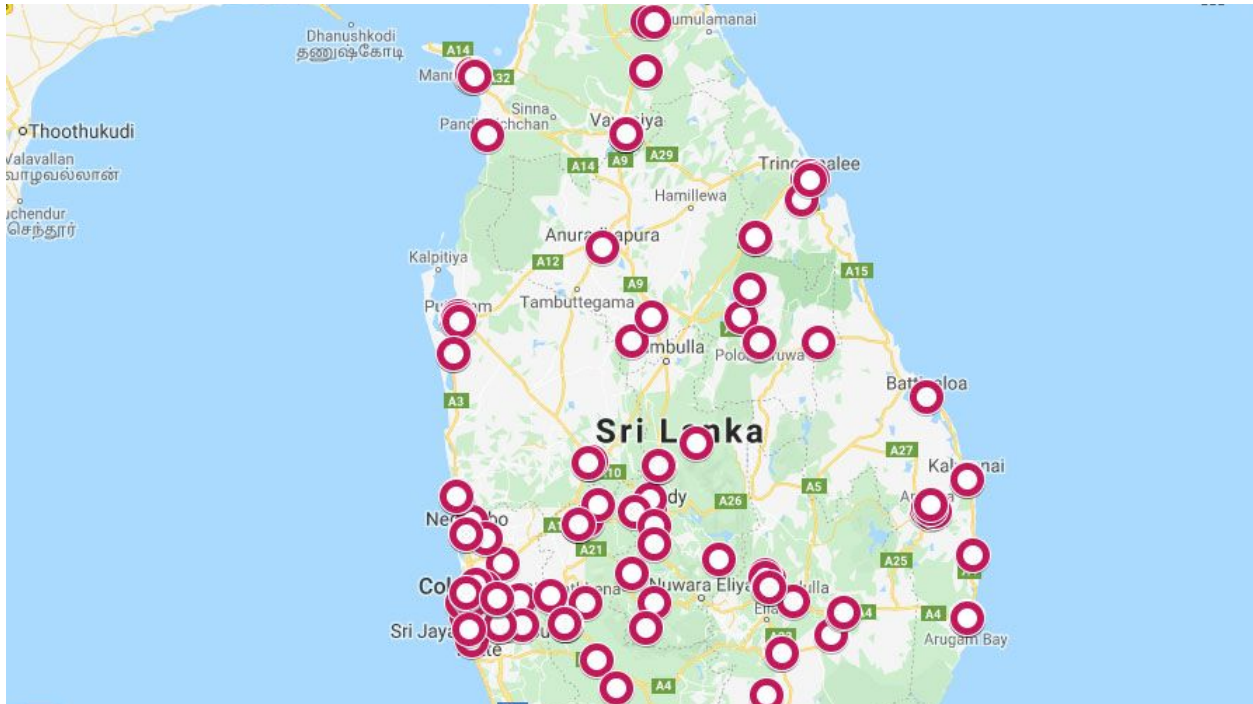
- [Media consumption survey](#)
- [Use of Facebook pages for political messaging](#)

Considering bots are now a permanent feature of Sri Lanka's Twitter landscape and will likely grow in scope and scale leading up to elections or a referendum, it is important to ask how to address the issue at scale, given the number of citizens – directly connected as well as influenced by those connected – involved.

Even with its limited scope and data, this report is a clear snapshot of the political landscape we now inhabit, and projects in the future, real dangers that result from just the visible investments made around key social media platforms, which are today the key information and news vectors for a demographic between 18-34. The report [Weaponising 280 Characters](#) is available on the CPA website in all three languages.

Also see [Report on Freedom on the Net in SL in 2018/ Freedom House](#)  
[Namal Rajapaksa, bots and trolls](#)





*Violence, violations and electoral malpractices logged by CMEV at the Local Government Election held on 10 February 2018, updated live throughout Election Day using its [Incident Map](#)*

## Electoral Reform/Free and Fair Elections

### Improving Electoral Processes and the Local Government Election

Throughout 2018, CPA and CMEV continued to advance the quality and credibility of electoral processes, aiming to ensure that elections accurately reflect the choices of voters and are acceptable as legitimate. CMEV conducted its election observation process throughout the period of the Local Authority Elections, the first to be held under a new electoral system, from the beginning of January up to the end of February 2018. CMEV deployed a team of 60 field monitors as long term observers covering all 25 administrative districts, and over 1,000 short term observers, deployed as static observers in polling stations on Election Day, 10 February 2018. CMEV received over 600 complaints related to election related violence and malpractices during the various phases of the election and investigated accordingly. It undertook legal action in an incident of voter intimidation and bribery in Monaragala, the first legal action under the new system.

CMEV also sought to ensure a fair playing field for all candidates, particularly women candidates contesting under the newly introduced women's quota for representation. CMEV's election monitoring efforts uncovered electoral malpractices often missed by mainstream media, establishing it as the leading electoral rights monitoring and advocacy body in Sri Lanka.

Media cover: [Sunday Observer 4th March 2018/](#) [News In Asia 10 Feb 2018/](#) [Asian Mirror Dec 2018](#)

## Provincial Council Elections Voter Education and Outreach Programme

### *Stakeholder Meeting on New Provincial Council Election System/ Report of the Civil Society Committee to Review the Provincial Council Election System*



CMEV partnered with People's Action for Free & Fair Elections (PAFFREL) to host a critical dialogue on the new provincial council's election system in Colombo on 25 April 2018.

Over 120 key stakeholders including the Election Commission of Sri Lanka, Ministry of Provincial Councils and Local Government, political parties, academia as well as civil society leaders participated.

The main objective of this event was to review the outcome of the recently concluded Local Government Elections held under the new

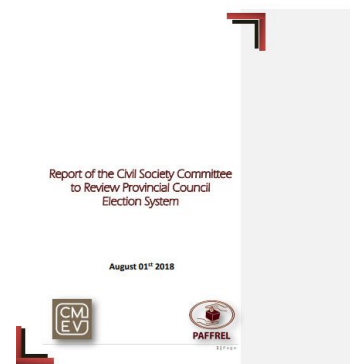
electoral system, as well as to discuss the newly introduced Provincial Councils Election Amendment Act.

This event was part of the Provincial Council Elections Voter Education and Outreach Programme analysed specific issues stemming from the policy dialogue on the current electoral act and point out possible changes which could strengthen the act as a first step toward revising the law.

A Committee was appointed to consult key stakeholders on the existing provincial council's election system within a time frame of one and a half months.

Media cover: [Media Conference 7th August 2018](#)

The report of the Civil Society Committee to Review the Provincial Council Election System is available at the [CMEV blog](#).



### **Publication series on Campaign finance and the Local Authorities Elections**



CMEV in collaboration with Transparency International Sri Lanka released a trilingual information pamphlet on campaign finance as well as [awareness leaflets](#) on the new Local Government election system.

This was the first time a reader-friendly trilingual document was produced, printed and disseminated on the subject of [campaign finance](#) in Sri Lanka.







## More press clippings 2018

### Political Crisis

[Guardian/Washington Post/India National Herald/Commonwealth.Org/The Hindu/Al Jazeera/Daily FT / NationalAE / Washington Post 10 November / Newsfirst -Face The Nation / APN 14 Nov/ Asian Society.org / Washington Post 17 Dec/ Asian Mirror 12 Nov / MSN/ USNEWS/ APN 18 Nov / Times Now News 13 Nov / Washington Post 10 Nov / France 24 31 Oct / Bloomberg Quint 29 Oct / New York Times 23 Sep / IDN 2 Nov / Aithiya Media 5 Dec / SLBC 13 Nov / UCA News / Ada Derana 11 Nov / Trending Now LK 7 Nov / APN 14 Nov / APN 19 Nov / Aiythiya 5 Dec/](#)

### Hate Speech/Fake news

[Advox 18 Aug / ICT4Peace 26 July / RSIS 24 July / The Hindu 22 June / Time 4 May / Telegraph India 25 Nov / Techonomy 1 Nov / New York Times 25 Apr / Buzzfeed 7 Apr / New York Times 21 Apr / Build Up 27 Feb / Scroll.In 7 Jun / NDTV 7 Jun / CNA 7 Jun / PRI 27 Apr / WaterTown / LA Times /Asia Pacific Research / FirstPost / IPSN News /NDTV.com/](#)



*Sandya Eknaligoda, wife of disappeared journalist Prageeth Eknaligoda speaking about the delayed justice for her husband's disappearance along with Father Sathyawel, a human rights activist, and Saliya Induruwawithana, a social activist.*

*Photo from the 2nd Regional "Unframed Photography Exhibition: Exhibits from Post-War Sri Lanka - for Justice and Life" held in Negombo 7-8 April 2018, celebrating 10 years of work of the Vikalpa Website as a citizen journalism platform. The exhibition featured around 125 photographs of Post-War Sri Lanka based on thematic areas, such as Disappearances, Political Prisoners, Land Grabbing, War Tourism, Media Suppression, Internally Displaced Persons, the Story of 150 years of Ceylon Tea & End of War. The exhibition was followed by two public panel discussions. Event co-organised with 'Prabathya Art and Media Collective*

Former CPA Senior Researcher Iromi Perera was [interviewed live](#) with TNL Lite 87 (6 March 2018).

Iromi spoke about development, urbanisation, beautification and related issues.



Read previous publications on [displacement due to urbanisation](#) and land acquisition in Colombo and a piece on the [women affected](#) by these processes on the CPA website.

References to ongoing CPA work in the area of land and housing rights, were made in 2018 including below:

Media cover: [Human Rights Watch Report 2018](#) / [Sunday Observer 28 Oct 2018](#)/ [Sunday Observer 17 June 2018](#)

# **DONOR LIST 2018**

**CrowdSource Fund**  
**Counterpart International**  
**Development Alternatives Incorporated (DAI Global LLC)**  
**Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)**  
**Embassy of the Republic of Germany**  
**Foundation Open Society Institute (OSF/FOSI)**  
**Friedrich Naumann Stiftung Fur Die Freiheit (FNST)(FNF)**  
**International Media Support (IMS)**  
**International Working Group on Srilanka (IWG)**  
**London School of Economics & Political Science (LSE)**  
**National Endowment For Democracy (NED)**  
**Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**  
**Robert Bosch Stiftung Foundation**  
**Royal Embassy of Netherlands**  
**Search for Common Ground(SFCG)**  
**South Asian Policy and Research Institute (SAPRI)**  
**Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs**  
**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**  
**U.S Department of State**  
**United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**  
**University of Edinburgh**

Funds received by the organization for the year 2018 totalled Rs. 129,316,721.00 with expenses at Rs 121,789,746.00 and a net surplus of 7,526,975.00

## **STAFF DETAILS**

By the end of 2018 CPA staff numbered 52 including 3 part time staff members, with 10 new members joining, and 4 leaving. The gender distribution of employees is 24 men and 21 women.



# FINANCIALS



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APAG/ADK/AD

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CENTRE FOR POLICY ALTERNATIVES (GUARANTEE) LTD

### Report on the audit of the Financial Statements

#### Opinion

We have audited the accompanying Financial Statements of Centre for Policy Alternatives (Guarantee) Ltd, ("the Organization") which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2018, and Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Reserves and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes set out on pages 06 to 20.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Centre for Policy Alternatives (Guarantee) Ltd as at 31 December 2018, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Statement of Recommended Practice for Not-for-Profit Organizations (Including Non-Governmental Organization) (SL SoRP-NPO's (including NGO's)) issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka.

#### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards (SLAuSs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Organization in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by CA Sri Lanka (Code of Ethics) and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Responsibilities of Board and those charged with governance for the financial statements

Board of Directors ("the Board") is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with Sri Lanka Statement of Recommended Practice for Not-for-Profit Organizations (Including Non-Governmental Organization) (SL SoRP-NPO's (including NGO's)) issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka, and for such internal control as Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, Board is responsible for assessing the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless Board either intends to liquidate the Organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Organization's financial reporting process.

(Contd...2/-)

Partners: W R H Fernando FCA FCMA, R N de Saram ACA FCMA, Ms. N A De Silva FCA, Ms. Y A De Silva FCA, W R H De Silva ACA ACMA, W K B S P Fernando FCA FCMA,  
Ms. K R M Fernando FCA ACMA, Ms. L K H L Fonseka FCA, A P A Gunasekera FCA FCMA, A Herath FCA, D K Hulangemawa FCA FCMA LLB (Lond), H M A Jayasinghe FCA FCMA,  
Ms. A A Ludowyke FCA FCMA, Ms. G G S Manatunga FCA, Ms. P V K N Sajewani FCA, N M Sulaiman ACA ACMA, B E Wijesuriya FCA FCMA  
Principals: G B Goudan ACA, A A J R Perera ACA ACMA, T P M Ruberu FCA FCMA  
A member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited



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#### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SLAuSs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with SLAuSs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



30 August 2019  
Colombo



Centre for Policy Alternatives (Guarantee) Ltd

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2018

	Notes	2018 Rs.	2017 Rs.
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Non Current Assets</b>			
Property Plant and Equipment	6	3,509,520	4,231,803
		<u>3,509,520</u>	<u>4,231,803</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Receivables	7	14,973,731	10,741,766
Short Term Investments	8	34,212,113	34,467,902
Cash and Bank Balances	17	10,433,926	4,052,687
		<u>59,619,770</u>	<u>49,262,355</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>63,129,290</u>	<u>53,494,158</u>
<b>FUNDING AND LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>			
Unrestricted Funds	10	(3,911,457)	(11,438,432)
Restricted Funds	11	37,220,746	34,952,003
Capital Reserve		10,727,139	11,708,591
		<u>44,036,428</u>	<u>35,222,162</u>
<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>			
Retirement Benefit Liability	12	13,980,325	11,983,300
		<u>13,980,325</u>	<u>11,983,300</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Payables	9	5,112,537	4,728,610
Tax Payable		-	202,001
Bank Overdrafts	17	-	1,358,085
		<u>5,112,537</u>	<u>6,288,696</u>
<b>Total Equity &amp; Liabilities</b>		<u>63,129,290</u>	<u>53,494,158</u>

These Financial Statements are in compliance with the requirements of the Companies Act No : 07 of 2007.



Finance Manager

The Board of Directors are responsible for these Financial Statements. Signed for and on behalf of the Board by:



Director



Director

The accounting policies and notes on pages 07 through 21 form an integral part of the Financial Statements.



Centre for Policy Alternatives (Guarantee) Ltd  
**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**  
Year ended 31 December 2018

	Notes	2018 Rs.	2017 Rs.
<b>Incoming Resources</b>	3	<u>117,042,103</u>	<u>98,095,045</u>
<b>Project Expenditure</b>	4		
Staff Costs		33,975,433	31,359,482
Other Direct Costs		41,309,212	35,158,788
Other Indirect Expenditure		<u>40,757,458</u>	<u>31,576,775</u>
Total Project Cost		<u>116,042,103</u>	<u>98,095,045</u>
<b>Net Surplus on Projects</b>		1,000,000	-
Revenue Earned from Other Activities	13	12,274,618	5,595,272
Administrative Expenses	14	(5,670,574)	(7,283,064)
		<u>7,604,044</u>	<u>(1,687,792)</u>
Finance Cost	15	(77,069)	(42,961)
<b>Net Surplus Before Tax</b>		<u>7,526,975</u>	<u>(1,730,753)</u>
Income Tax Expenses	16	-	(66,106)
<b>Net Surplus for the Year</b>		<u>7,526,975</u>	<u>(1,796,859)</u>
<b>Other Comprehensive Income for the Year</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the Year</b>		<u>7,526,975</u>	<u>(1,796,859)</u>

The accounting policies and notes on pages 07 through 21 form an integral part of the Financial Statements.



Centre for Policy Alternatives (Guarantee) Ltd

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Year ended 31 December 2018

		2018 Rs.	2017 Rs.
<b>Cash Flow From/(Used in) Operating Activities</b>	<b>Notes</b>		
Net Surplus/(Deficit) Before Tax		7,526,975	(1,730,753)
<b>Adjustments for</b>			
Depreciation	6	1,687,779	2,707,790
Provision for Defined Benefit Plans	12	2,145,975	1,295,650
Finance Cost	15	77,069	42,961
Project funds written off		-	469,940
Interest Earned		(1,812,586)	(1,757,704)
Disposal gain		(5,000)	156,567
Transfer to Unrestricted Funds through Income Statement		29,484	(344,827)
Funds Transferred through Payable		-	(355,944)
Amortization of Project Assets Capitalized Through Capital Reserve		(981,452)	(2,610,588)
Exchange gain		-	(343,244)
Write Back from Projects		(270,295)	(397,328)
Refundable Deposit Written Off		-	876,052
		<u>8,397,949</u>	<u>(1,991,428)</u>
(Increase) / Decrease in Receivables		(4,323,669)	11,714,463
Increase / (Decrease) in Payables		<u>383,927</u>	<u>(45,337)</u>
<b>Cash Generated from Operations</b>		<u>4,458,207</u>	<u>9,677,698</u>
Tax Paid		-	(387,414)
Finance Costs Paid		(77,069)	(42,961)
Defined Benefit Plan Costs Paid	12	<u>(148,950)</u>	<u>(480,600)</u>
<b>Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities</b>		<u>4,232,188</u>	<u>8,766,723</u>
<b>Cash Flow From/(Used in) Investing Activities</b>			
Acquisition of Property, Plant & Equipment	6	(965,497)	(45,750)
Sale Proceeds from Property, Plant & Equipment		-	258,786
Investment in Government Securities and Fixed Deposits		(255,789)	(3,798,972)
Interest Earned		<u>1,489,162</u>	<u>1,570,458</u>
<b>Net Cash Flow from Investing Activities</b>		<u>267,876</u>	<u>(2,015,478)</u>
<b>Cash Flow From/(Used in) Financing Activities</b>			
Cash Received from Donors not Used for Projects		2,239,259	(6,212,785)
Funds Returned to Donor		-	(3,979,338)
Funds received for restricted activities		<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net Cash Flow from Financing Activities</b>		<u>3,239,259</u>	<u>(10,192,123)</u>
<b>Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		<u>7,739,323</u>	<u>(3,440,878)</u>
Cash & Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Year	17	<u>2,694,602</u>	<u>6,135,481</u>
<b>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents at the End of the Year</b>	17	<u>10,433,926</u>	<u>2,694,602</u>

The accounting policies and notes on pages 07 through 21 form an integral part of the Financial Statements.

