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Civil Society Proposal for Electoral Reform...

CPA, in collaboration with the Centre For Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV) and the People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL) released a set of proposed Electoral Reforms, **Dec 22**, based on the findings of a series of nationwide consultations among stakeholders including politicians, religious leaders, women's groups, business associations and representatives of various cultural and ethnic groups. In addition to reports from these groups, the dialogue process involved members of the Police Election Secretariat and the Election Commissioner, Dayananda Dissanyake.

Speaking at the Press Conference to launch the report, the Election
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Election Commissioner, Dayananda Dissanyake speaking at the media briefing

KAPS Report launched

The report launch of the **Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices Survey (KAPS)** took place **Dec 14th**. United States Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Jeffery Lunstead delivered
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Prof. Mishler



H.E. Jeffery Lunstead, Dr Saravanamuttu, Kim DeRidder, Prof Mishler and Pradeep Peiris

Public Broadcasting Initiative Commenced

CPA, in collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, (FES), and Young Asia Television (YA-TV) organized a conference on **"Public Service Broadcasting" 9th -10th**, Nov, in Colombo. The conference focused on the need for public service broadcasting in Sri Lanka.

On the 9th an open dialogue on *"The need for public service broadcasting in Sri Lanka"* was held, with the participation of a wide range of representatives from among government, public and private sector media institutions, parliamentarians, media lawyers as well as representatives of civil society. Among other issues the current legal regime pertaining to public broadcasting was discussed and analysed from the perspective of broadcasters and community radio. H. Bussiek, a broadcasting expert who has worked in Europe, and the Balkans spoke on current

On the Anti Conversion situ



Public Interest Litigation

CONTACTING CPA
Web

<http://www.cpalanka.org>
email
cpa@cpalanka.org

Overall Coordinator of CPA Units:

Dr. Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu
Executive Director

E-mail:
cpa_sara@sri.lanka.net

Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV)

Contact person
Saman Gunathilaka

E-mail:
cmev@cpalanka.org

Legal Unit

Contact Person
Rohan Edrisinha

E-mail:
cpalegal@diamond.lanka.net

Media Unit

Contact Person
Sunanda Deshapriya

E-mail:
media@cpalanka.org

Peace and Conflict Analysis Unit

Contact Person
Kethesh Loganathan

E-mail:
peace@cpalanka.org

Polling Unit

Contact Person
Pradeep Peiris

E-mail:
cpapoll@diamond.lanka.net

Translation Unit

Contact Person
Gananathan Sivajothy

E-mail:
vibhasha@cpalanka.org

Our Address

24/2, 28th Lane,
Off Flower Road
Colombo 7
Sri Lanka

Tel: 94-1-565304
94-1-565306

Fax: 94-74-714460

Former Keells Finance Director Joins CPA Board

Former John Keells Holdings Finance Director, Anushya Coomaraswamy will join the Board of Directors of CPA as of January 2005.

A double qualified accountant, Ms. Coomaraswamy worked for more than 20 years in the Private Sector, in industry, commerce and services, in senior management positions and thereafter held the post of Advisor at the Ministry

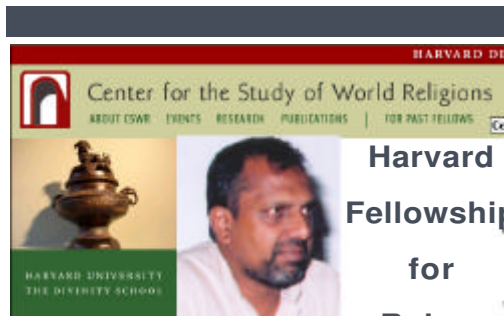


of Finance working directly with the Deputy Secretary to the Treasury.

From 1994 to 2002 she was Group Finance Director of John Keells Holdings Ltd, one of the leading conglomerates in the country and one of the largest capitalised companies on the Colombo Stock Market.

She was the first Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka and a member of the Public Enterprise Reform Commission (PERC).

Ms Coomaraswamy is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka, the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants of UK and the Society of Certified Managements of Sri Lanka, and a member of the Taxation and Auditing Standards Sub Committees of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and of the Urgent Issues Task Force and the Continuing Professional Education Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka.



Rohan Edrisinha, Director, CPA, and head of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Unit was appointed a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for the Study of World Religions, Harvard Divinity School, U.S.A. for the academic year 2004-5. His letter of award states, "Your involvement in peace initiatives in Sri Lanka and your interest in inter-religious tensions in your country will complement the diverse nature of research and study in world religions that our assembled group of students and post-doctoral scholars will be pursuing in the coming year."

Rohan will be based in Boston from mid December 2004 until June 2005.

Among other writings, he is due to present a paper on the Sri Lankan peace process at an International Conference on Religion, Ethnicity and Nationalism to be organized by the Centre in April 2005

Sriyanje on Domestic Violence..



Sriyanje Wijesundera of the Peace and Conflict Analysis Unit (seated fourth from left) with officers in charge of Child and Women's Protection Units in the Sri Lanka Police. The theme of the programme was "Capacity building and Empowerment of the Officers of the Women's and Children's Bureau of the Sri Lanka Police and Sriyanje resented a paper on "Gender and Domestic Violence" for OICs

Staff Changes at CPA

New Faces...



Mirak Raheem joined the Peace & Conflict Analysis Unit as research associate in Nov 2004. He was with CPA in 2003 but took time off to do his Masters in Peace Studies from Notre Dame University, USA, and then to intern with the Rwanda Demobilization Reintegration Commission. Mirak has a BSc in International Relations from L.S.E, UK



Shahina Zahir joined Legal Unit as a researcher. She has an LLB. Hons from the University of Colombo

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On the 17th December 2004 the Supreme Court delivered a determination on the Nineteenth Amendment Bill (No 2) presented by the Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU) seeking to establish Buddhism as the Official Religion of the Republic.

Public Interest Litigation

The Supreme Court found the Bill to be substantially in conflict with the constitution including the fundamental rights of freedom of speech, thought and conscience. The Determination was ordered to be published in Hansard by the Speaker on 4th Jan 2005.

Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Survey

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the keynote speech and Pradeep Peiris, Unit Head, Social Indicator, outlined the KAP Survey Methodology

The survey was conducted in 21 districts with over 3,500 respondents from different communities who were asked for their opinion on various aspects of the peace process.

Professor of Political Science in the University of Arizona, William Mishler presented the KAPS Analysis along with its key findings and observed that support for peace has increased since last year's report. He also stressed the

need for the government and NGO's to create public information campaigns to increase public knowledge and understanding of the

Unit in Focus

peace process. Dr. P. Saravanamuttu, Executive Director, CPA made the concluding remarks. An open discussion on the report followed. KAPS provides a deeper and richer understanding of the peace process in

Sri Lanka, thereby building the capacity of both the Government and Civil Society organisations and institutions to understand and better meet the interests, needs and concerns of the public with regard to the current peace process.

More information is available at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/2004/12/15/news/4.asp> The KAPS report is available at http://www.cpalanka.org/research_papers/KAPS_2004_Final_Report.pdf

In the Press...



Articles on CPA and by CPA staff appeared in the *Sunday Leader* of 12th and 19th Dec, *Lankadeepa* 7th and 14th Dec, *Daily Mirror* Dec 15th among others.

Dialogue to Action..

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Commissioner shared his experiences, and views on the existing system, and expressed his gratitude to CMEV and to PAFFRELL for their part in assisting him during the elections, and to CPA for its part in strengthening the legal provisions in relation to elections in this country.

The final report "**From Dialogue to Action: Recommendations and Strategies For Electoral Reform in Sri Lanka**" in all three languages can be downloaded from http://www.cpalanka.org/research_papers/Electoral_Reform.pdf

WOMEN

Women's Access to Land and Property

CPA's Social Indicator and Legal Unit coordinated the survey research component of the CARELIFT project, Perception study on "Women's access to and ownership of land and property" which aims to ascertain public knowledge, attitudes and perceptions on women's access and ownership to land and property in the three areas, Jaffna, Batticaloa and Vanni. In December 2004, SI was able to complete the fieldwork in Jaffna and Vanni. However, due to heavy rains and flooding in Batticaloa, SI postponed the fieldwork in those



areas to January 2005. Subsequently due to the Tsunami devastation in all three areas, SI has been unable to conduct the fieldwork in Batticaloa. However it was decided to conclude the fieldwork and use the data already gathered from Jaffna and Vanni and to keep to the original project deadline.

Public Service Broadcasting

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international trends in public broadcasting with a special focus on Europe and selected countries

On the following day (10th November - Session 2) three working sessions were programmed so as to develop an agenda "Towards public service broadcasting in Sri Lanka".

CPA TSUNAMI FUND

In solidarity and support of those who work with CPA and are affected by the Tsunami, CPA has set up a Tsunami Disaster Relief Fund comprising of funds donated by its Board of Directors and Staff. The CPA Fund will be administered by CPA's Board of Directors. More details at <http://www.cpalanka.org>

Calendar of Events

For more updates on latest and upcoming CPA events, visit http://www.cpalanka.org/calendar_events.html

October

20th A luncheon meeting and a public meeting with Prof. Johan Galtung hosted by CPA

November

9th-10th conference on "Public Service Broadcasting" in Colombo with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), and Young Asia Television (YA-TV)
30th discussion on Selected Migrant Worker Issues (with UNIFEM)

December

2nd - 3rd National Consultation on HIV/AIDS & Human Rights (CPA and UNAIDS)
14th Launch of "Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAPS): The Potential For Peace". Social indicator of the CPA, with USAID and Academy for Educational Development (AED)
16th Restructuring The Judiciary In A Federal Constitution: Lessons From Australia And Canada a public lecture by the Honourable Justice Anthony Max North, of the Federal Court of Australia and Honourable Justice Russel Juriansz, of the Ontario Court of Appeal, Canada
22nd Media Conference to launch the report "From Dialogue to Action: Recommendations and Strategies for Electoral Reform in Sri Lanka" (with NDIIA and PAFFREL)

EVENTS ATTENDED

Oct 4th Sriyanie Wijesundara, Programme Coordinator, Peace & Conflict Analysis Unit, presented a paper, "Gender and Domestic Violence" for officers in charge of Child and Women's Protection Units in the Sri Lanka Police as part of a programme titled "Capacity building and Empowerment of the Officers of the Women's and Children's Bureau of the Sri Lanka Police.". This programme was jointly sponsored by the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute (SLFI,) National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) and UNICEF.

Oct 4th Dr Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, Executive Director and Kethesh Loganathan, Director, CPA and Head Peace & Conflict Analysis Unit were invited to serve in the National Advisory Council on Peace and Reconciliation as members of the Civil Society Committee. The inaugural meeting took place on Oct 4th

Oct 11th, Kethesh Loganathan met the members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association of UK who were on a visit to Sri Lanka at a dinner discussion hosted by the British High Commissioner, HE Stephan Evans.

Oct 15th Guest lecture by Sriyanie Wijesundara at the "Apith Purawasiyo" (We Are Also Citizens) Programme jointly conducted by Blind Citizens Front and Sri Lanka Foundation Institute.

Oct 26-27th, Kethesh Loganathan attended a conference on "Peace process in Sri Lanka" at the India International Centre, New Delhi. He made a presentation on "The Challenges of Reviving the Peace Process".

EVENTS ATTENDED cont...

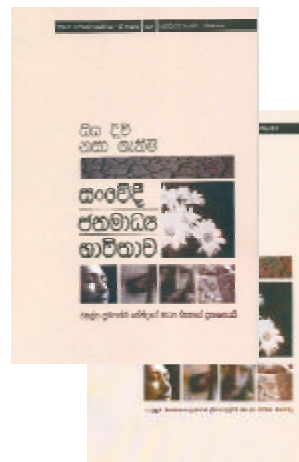
Oct 30th Rohan Edrisinha, Director, CPA and the Head of the Legal and Constitutional Unit, presented a paper on "the Debate on Federalism in Sri Lanka" at an International Conference on Comparative Federalism hosted by the Forum of Federations and the Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi.

Nov 16th -17th Cyrene Siriwardhana, Director, CPA, was invited by UNIFEM (of the United Nations Development Fund for Women) to participate in the Regional Review of the South Asia Anti Trafficking Program in Delhi.

Nov 26th -27th Sunanda Deshapriya, Head, Media Unit, CPA visited Copenhagen to attend the IMS Conference on the relationship between Media Development, Peacekeeping forces and Humanitarian Aid.

NOV 2005 Rohan Edrisinha was appointed a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for the Study of World Religions, Harvard Divinity School, U.S.A. for the academic year 2004-5. Rohan will be based in Boston from mid December 2004 until June 2005.

LATEST PUBLICATIONS



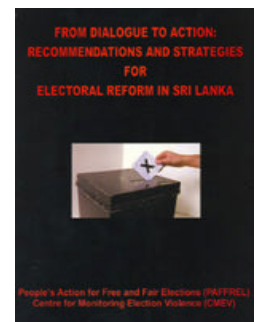
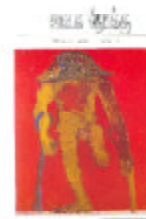
Potential For Peace - the results of the latest KAPS survey by Social Indicator of CPA



From Dialogue to Action - Recommendations and Strategies for Electoral Reform in Sri Lanka :CMEV AND PAFFREL

Suicide Sensitive Journalism (Sinhala and Tamil)

Oodaga Nokku (August Issue of Madhya Vimarshi translated into Tamil)



Production of the advocacy video on **International Experiences with Federalism**, in collaboration with the Forum of Federations, has been completed .VHS and VCD copies are available in English, Sinhala and Tamil and wider dissemination has been planned in early 2005.

Compiled by Chandrika Gadiewasam

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