

SHARING OF COUNTRY EXPERIENCES ON GRB IN SRI LANKA

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COUNTRY OVERVIEW



GENERAL INFORMATION

- ❖ Sri Lanka is an Island republic with a multiracial country and located towards the **southeast side of India**
 - ✗ Between 5° 55' & 9° 50' North Latitude
 - ✗ Between 79° 31' & 81° 53' East Longitude
 - ✗ 433 km (269 miles) North to South
 - ✗ 226 km (140 miles) West to East
- ❖ Also blessed with lots of natural resources and almost all the climatic conditions can be reached within a two hour drive
- ❖ And its capital, **Colombo** is situated in the western side of the country
- ❖ The total population is 20.6 million at present and 52% of women

SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS TOWARDS ADOPTING GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

The Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka provided equal rights for all persons before the law and are entitled to the equal protection of the law.

Article 12

(1) All persons are equal before the law and are entitled to the equal protection of the law.

(2) No citizen shall be discriminated against on the grounds of race, religion, language, caste, sex, political opinion, place of birth or any one of such grounds :

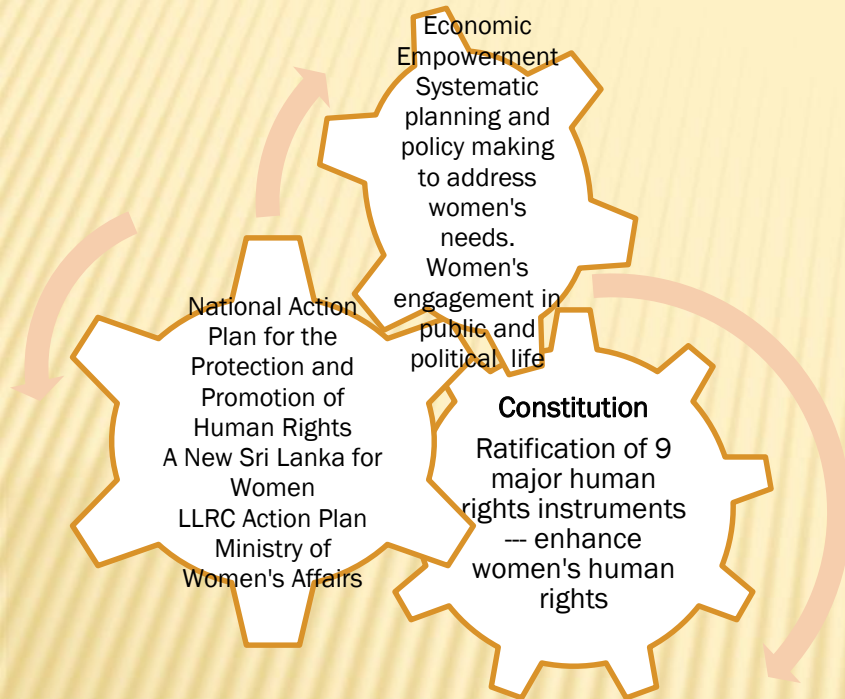
(4) Nothing in this Article shall prevent special provision being made, by law, subordinate legislation or executive action, for the advancement of women, children or disabled persons.

Article 27

(1) The Directive Principles of State Policy herein contained shall guide Parliament, the President and the Cabinet of Ministers in the enactment of laws and the governance of Sri Lanka for the establishment of a just and free society.

(6) The State shall ensure equality of opportunity to citizens, so that no citizen shall suffer any disability on the ground of race, religion, language, caste, sex, political opinion or occupation.

STATED GENDER COMMITMENTS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL



- ✘ Grounded in the vision of 'good governance', the election manifesto, 'A new Sri Lanka for women', the newly elected New Democratic Front pledged to work towards making Sri Lanka country where women are equal citizens.

The vision document specifically mentioned:

- ✘ Giving every woman the opportunity and access to secure employment or income generation activities.
- ✘ Fulfil state's responsibilities in protecting the rights and entitlements of women who may face difficulties.
- ✘ Introduce systematic planning and policy making that addresses the specific issues and concerns of women.

OTHER CRITICAL POLICIES

- ✘ **National Action Plan for the Protection & Promotion of Human Rights (2017-2022).** The National Action Plan included a Section on Rights of Women, with sub sections on health, economic empowerment, employment, violence against women, political representation, discrimination and women affected by conflict.
- ✘ **National policy framework and national plan of action to address Sexual and gender based violence (2016- 2020)**
Action plan covers 09 sectors to address these issues
- ✘ **Development of plan of action on female heads of household is being prepared**

GRB MANDATE: ENGENDERING FUNDS IN THE RURAL ECONOMY

- ✗ The Cabinet Ministers approved a Cabinet Memorandum on 9th March 2016 mandating allocation of at least 25 percent of the project investment on rural economic development for women. The Memorandum identifies select ministries which need to allocate 25 per cent of their development projects for women.

Objectives of the Memorandum

- ✗ Increasing women's income
- ✗ Introduction of new employment opportunities and minimizing unemployment among women
- ✗ Broadening market opportunities for women's products
- ✗ Minimising instances of women being victims of violence and discrimination of rights due to poverty
- ✗ Promoting resource ownership, savings and investment potential of women
- ✗ Empowering women as a productive labour force actively contributing to economic development rather than remaining as dependents.

MONITORING

- ✘ The Memorandum envisages preparation of a Provincial Women's Economic Development Plan.
- ✘ District Women's Economic Development Plan for each Province/District under the supervision of the Provincial Chief Secretary and District Secretary with participation of all Provincial Heads and Divisional Secretaries and field officers. The Women's Development Officer in each District or the relevant Divisional Secretary's Division is supposed to be the chief coordinating officer.
- ✘ The Memorandum also specifies monitoring of this policy by way of preparation of a national plan which will entail information gathered from the Provincial Council/District Secretariat and Divisional Secretariat levels, including physical and financial data.

THANK YOU