# **Triennial Report**

2014-2016





# Message from the Chairperson and Co-Chairperson

South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR) is pleased to present its annual report on the initiatives taken from 2014 to 2016 to promote and protect human rights in the region.

The challenges we faced in South Asia could be seen as you read our report. From boarder conflicts to violations of freedom of expression have negatively affected the people's lives in our societies. When SAHR was established the commitment we made was to build a strong and effective South Asian voice to highlight national issues at the regional level. During the past years our engagement strived to respond to the enormous challenges we face in the region.

SAHR is satisfied with the progress made in these years. It has been able to garner the attention of the authorities, civil society and media and more importantly, involve a good number of people in its work. As a network of human rights defenders, this type of synergy is extremely important. SAHR has also been able to increase its networking potential and to bring together a range of individuals who are all working on various human rights issues to a regional platform.

SAHR's efforts to promote peace in the region through its women's peace missions to different countries of South Asia have contributed to creating and maintaining a momentum in the civil society peace movement.

SAHR has been able to initiate an engagement with SAARC in order to influence South Asian

governments to adopt the subject of human rights as a SAARC area for cooperation and include it in the agenda at SAARC conferences. SAHR has developed a systematic approach by which human rights activists can meet with high level government functionaries to voice their concerns as part of its efforts to engage with the SAARC Secretary General to discuss the possible areas of collaboration.

SAHR has strengthened its presence in the region and is considered as an important voice in South Asia by various governments, civil society and media and has involved a good number of likeminded people in its activities and programmes.

The organisation is ever grateful to all its members who have worked with us to reach a common goal and to our donor partners for their continued funding support which has enabled us to move forward with the promotion of human rights and democratic governance.

We continue to commend the Secretariat for their diligent work throughout these years to carry out SAHR activities.

Hina Jilani Chairperson

**Dr. Nimalka Fernando**Co-Chairperson

# **SAHR AT A GLANCE**

South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR) is a democratic regional network of human rights defenders with a large membership base of individuals and organisations committed to the promotion and protection of human rights at both national and regional levels.

**VISION:** A South Asian region that guarantees political, economic, social and cultural conditions for all peoples to realize their rights and live in dignity, justice and peace.

**PURPOSE:** To promote and defend the human rights of all peoples in South Asia in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres, at both the regional and national levels, by activating regional responses through regional instruments, monitoring mechanisms, legal frameworks, policies and practices.

Building on the mandate of the Neemrana Declaration, SAHR's vision captures the importance of protecting and preserving the rights of all citizens in the region. Its objectives can be summarized as seeking to:

- Foster the concept of multiple South Asian identities by enabling citizens to realise their aspirations for peace, democracy, secularism, justice, and human security, while promoting pluralism in approaches towards social, political, economic and cultural development of different communities based on ethnicity, language, religion, and gender.
- Contribute to the realisation of a participatory democracy, by enabling citizens to be involved in decision making and by strengthening regional responses, regional instruments, monitoring human rights violations, reviewing laws, policies and practices that have an adverse impact on human rights; and conducting campaigns and programmes on issues of major concern in the region.
- Advocate for just and responsive states to take initiatives for peace and cooperation
  that will enable citizens to benefit from the sharing of resources, and build a just
  society based on non-discrimination.

SAHR's strength and legitimacy comes from its democratic structure and broad-based membership of recognised human rights defenders in the region. SAHR members, both institutional and individual, form the network's general body which currently consists of members from eight South Asian countries and an elected bureau functioning as the organisation's executive body.

# **PROGRAMMES**

SAHR's key programme areas for 2014-2016 were developed in line with the organisation's vision, goal, and purpose.

# ACTIVITY AREA 1: ADDRESSING GRAVE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS: TORTURE AND ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

### Panel Discussion on 'Combating Impunity in Nepal: Lessons from South Asia'

This event was jointly organized with the International Commission of Jurists in Nepal on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2014 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The panelists were Hina Jilani, chairperson of SAHR, Vrinda Grover, bureau member of SAHR representing India, and Govinda 'Bandi' Sharma, country



director of ICJ. The meeting was chaired by Senior Advocate Hari Krishna Karki, President, Nepal Bar Association. Bureau members and representatives of Nepal civil society and members of the legal fraternity attended the event.

At the event Govinda Sharma gave a detailed description about the state of Nepal with regard to impunity and made several valid recommendations with regard to addressing the issue. Vrinda Grover

looked at the issue from the Indian perspective and made several significant recommendations on how the issue of impunity should be addressed at regional level. Hina Jilani in her speech emphasized the importance of protecting the human rights defenders who assist victims of grave human rights violations. The event was organized to raise the issue of impunity prevalent in the SARRC countries and was held during the official SAARC summit. The event attracted wide coverage particularly in the Nepalese press. SAHR provided a platform for public discussion to take place on the issue of impunity which is a sensitive subject for the SAARC member countries.

# The Regional Consultation on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances - 28 - 29 March 2015 in Colombo, Sri Lanka

The purpose of this meeting was to strategise and initiate a regional campaign on enforced disappearances demanding truth, justice, accountability and reparation. SAHR's overall objective of this event was to focus upon the issue of enforced or involuntary disappearances to be taken up as a common campaign across the sub region. Consequently, SAHR was able to gather together experts on civil and political rights working in the area of enforced disappearances, together with families

The speech can be found at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G4bIulO2MQU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G4bIulO2MQU</a>

The speech can be found at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDn2shr]8UU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDn2shr]8UU</a>

of disappeared to exchange information, experiences and formulate a joint strategy for a sustainable campaign in furtherance of the same. Objectives of the regional consultation were to conduct a mapping exercise of the work being done by various groups on the ground on enforced disappearances; how to support the work of groups of HRDs and activists working on ED in the region; discussion and



formulation of a wider regional campaign on ED; SAHR to be the solidarity network/ forum for those working on ED; and to make a sustainable initiative addressing ED, independent of SAHR.

The participants had a fruitful discussion and several action points such as emphasis on urging the national governments to ratify the UN Convention on Enforced Disappearances, a regional consultation for developing national/regional protocols for action by security forces in consultation with national and regional groups were proposed.<sup>3</sup>

## Media campaign on enforced disappearances

As an initial step for SAHR's campaign short documentaries were made on the situation of enforced disappearances in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka which were widely disseminated. SAHR also utilised Facebook and Twitter for rapid and instant information distribution on issue of enforced disappearances at the national level.

# ACTIVITY AREA 2: EDUCATING SOUTH ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS ON CORE DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES

# South Asian Parliamentarians' Forum on the Realisation of Core Democratic Practices of Transparency, Accountability and the Human Rights Sensitivity

This event was organized as a part of Peoples' SAARC events that were held during the official SAARC Summit in November 2014. This event was part of SAHR's Parliament Watch Programme under which SAHR had produced a report based on observing the six parliaments in the region on its transparency and accountability in functioning. Recommendations of the report were disseminated at the South Asian Parliamentarians' Forum. The report included the recommendations under five themes: Calendar of sessions and business of parliament; transparency of business; papers tabled in parliament; integrity of members of parliament; and parliament committees.<sup>4</sup>

A press statement was released at the end of the consultation (<a href="https://www.southasianrights.org/?p=8192">https://www.southasianrights.org/?p=8192</a>). The extracts from the country presentations were uploaded as video clips on YouTube: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHwaZeUpDxeQolMhdByHneA/feed">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHwaZeUpDxeQolMhdByHneA/feed</a>

 $<sup>^{4} \</sup>quad The report can be found at \underline{http://www.southasianrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/\underline{Tranparency-in-Parliament-Final2.pdf}$ 

Based the on report parliamentarians and representatives of civil society discussed how to strengthen core democratic values in the SAARC countries and how to involve the parliamentarians in the process. With the assistance of parliamentarians who participated in the Forum SAHR plans to create and engage with a core group of parliamentarians from the



seven countries to take forward the recommendations for discussions in parliamentary committees of national parliaments and work towards the implementation of the recommendations.

A leaflet containing the recommendation of the final Parliamentary Watch report was prepared and widely disseminated among parliamentarians and representatives of civil society. 5

# ACTIVITY AREA 3: SUPPORT SAHR'S NETWORK TO FULLY ENGAGE WITH SAARC AND STRENGTHENING CITIZENS' VOICES

#### SAHR Press Conference on Occasion of the 18th SAARC Summit

The SAHR Bureau held a Press Conference in Kathmandu, Nepal on 17 November 2014 to release the SAHR statement addressed to the heads of governments of SAARC countries.

This was led by Sultana Kamal, SAHR bureau member from Bangladesh, who presented the statement and the bureau members responded to the queries of the journalists particularly about the situation of human rights, threats to human security, peace, secularism and democracy.<sup>6</sup>

# SAHR presence at the venue where the SAARC Heads of States summit was held

As part of SAHR's initiatives to engage with SAARC, SAHR Bureau members and members were present at the People's SAARC Convergence which was held in parallel to the 18th SAARC Summit in Kathmandu Nepal. Through this SAHR was able to achieve greater solidarity with the South Asian human rights community in order to lobby with regional groups at the SAARC Summit.

#### **Human Rights Mechanism in South Asia**

SAHR is already a part of the regional civil society initiative on a South Asian Human Rights Mechanism. A task force working under this initiative is examining the prospects for such a mechanism within SAARC. Consultations with stakeholders are being conducted, from which

The leaflet can be found at <a href="http://www.southasianrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Parliamentary-Transparency.pdf">http://www.southasianrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Parliamentary-Transparency.pdf</a>

The statement can be found at <a href="http://www.southasianrights.org/?p=7692">http://www.southasianrights.org/?p=7692</a>

a plan of action has emerged. Together with the other participating organizations have been contributing towards the development of this idea of a South Asian human rights mechanism for the protection and promotion of human rights in the region.

# Fact Finding Mission to Rampal, Bangladesh - 5-11 April 2015

The mission was carried out in Rampal, Bangladesh from 5 -11 April 2015 on the establishment of a coal- based power plant by the Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt.) Ltd. The objective of the mission was to evaluate the impact of the power plant on the livelihoods of the people and ecology of the region, examine the legal framework governing its establishment and assess if the proposed power plant violates any laws, policies and the guidelines that protect the Sundarbans, an international heritage site surrounding the power plant.

The mission was led by Dr. Abdullah Harun Chowdhury, Professor of Environmental Science of the Khulna University and Mr. Sharif Jamil, Waterkeeper Alliance, from Bangladesh. External expertise from provided was by Mr. Sagar Dhara, an Environmental Engineer and



Nityanand Jayaraman, a Chennai based writer and social activist. Deekshya Illangasinghe represented the SAHR Secretariat. SAHR Bureau Members were advisors to this mission.

The mission visited the site of the power plant by road and river. The mission members met with key stakeholders including affected villagers, environmentalists, lawyers, academics, journalists, human rights defenders and other members of the civil society. The Mission also interviewed government officials including Hon. Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, Energy Adviser to the Prime Minister, Hon. Talukder Abdul Khaleque, MP of the Rampal-Mongla area, Mohammad Hossain, Director General of Power Cell, MoPEMR, Vijay Shanker Tamrakar, Managing Director and U. K. Bhattacharya, Deputy Managing Director of the Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt) Ltd, and a Director of the Department of Environment.

The report highlights that the multifaceted costs to the local people and the irreversible damage to the fragile ecosystem and bio diversity have not been prioritised when proposing the project, while acknowledging the significant benefits from the construction of the power plant, including electricity production, infrastructure development and employment. The report details the key human rights concerns and the government response and critiques the environmental impact assessment conducted by the government and the track record of the National Thermal Power Corporation of India in similar projects. The report was launched on 17 September in Dhaka, Bangladesh with a press conference.<sup>7</sup>

The full report could be accessed at <a href="http://www.southasianrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Report-of-the-FFM-Rampa-Bangladesh.pdf">http://www.southasianrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Report-of-the-FFM-Rampa-Bangladesh.pdf</a>

SAHR was informed that this was the first regional initiative taken up on this issue and the activists working on Rampal have now been able to get the involvement of the international community to stop the construction of this power plant. SAHR was thanked by many for conducting this regional mission and was requested to initiate discussion with Indian civil society on lobbying the Indian government. SAHR plans to do several follow up advocacy activities with the report such as filing a submission on the violation of rights and the existing laws and regulations to the National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh.

### Fact Finding Mission to the Maldives, 5-8 May 2015

The mission was jointly conducted by SAHR and the ICJ from 5-8 May 2015. The SAHR team was represented by: I. A. Rehman, former Bureau Member of SAHR and Secretary General of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan; Ravindran Daniel and Dr. Deepika Udagama. Anushaya Collure, represented the SAHR Secretariat. The ICJ was represented by Mr. Nikhil Narayan, senior legal advisor for South Asia. SAHR Bureau member Mr. Mohamed Latheef was an advisor for the activity. Transparency International Maldives assisted in facilitating the mission.

The mission's Terms of Reference were to examine and assess the functioning of democratic institutions, their ability to ensure good governance and their respect for the principle of separation of powers; independence of the judiciary, including due process in the administration of justice and application of criminal justice, national security and counter terrorism legislation and practice; freedom of expression, media, association, assembly and trade unions, and the protections of human rights defenders; protection of women, children, minorities and marginalized groups; international and regional commitments and the role of SAARC.

The SAHR-ICJ delegation had meetings with members of the Maldivian government, independent institutions, political parties, the legal community, the media and the civil society. The report was launched in New Delhi in a press conference organised by ICJ and SAHR on 24 August 2015.8 SAHR Bureau Members Mr. Mohamed Latheef and Mr. Jatin Desai attended the event.

Among the follow up advocacy activities carried out were meeting the members of the Diplomatic Missions in Colombo such as the Embassy of Germany and the United States of America and the office of the EU Delegation; the family members of Retd. Col. Nazim and the MPs of MDN have been regularly in contact with the SAHR Secretariat. Further, SAHR and ICJ presented an Oral Statement at the 30th Regular Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council on the Universal Periodic Review outcome for the Maldives; calling upon the Government of Maldives to "accept and implement UPR recommendations on judicial independence and the rule of law."

The full report could be accessed at <a href="http://www.southasianrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Maldives-Justice-Adrift-Rule-of-Law-Publications-fact-finding-report-2015-ENG1.pdf">http://www.southasianrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Maldives-Justice-Adrift-Rule-of-Law-Publications-fact-finding-report-2015-ENG1.pdf</a>

The oral statement can be accessed at <a href="http://www.southasianrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Maldives-Oral-Statement-at-HRC.pdf">http://www.southasianrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Maldives-Oral-Statement-at-HRC.pdf</a>

## **Networking and Collaboration with HRDs in South Asia**

SAHR created coalitions and collaborations during this period with the International Commission of Jurists and SAHRAM Task Force, People's SAARC, Forum Asia for strengthened activism.



# **Fact Finding Mission to Nepal**

SAHR conducted a fact finding mission in the Nepal-India borders from 10-14 January 2016. The objective of the mission was to examine the trade blockade in Nepal that occurred from 23 September 2015 to 8 February 2016 following the promulgation of the new constitution. The mission entailed exploring of the blockade in relation to the internal factors in terms of the constitution, inclusive democracy and the protests by Madhes-centric parties, as well as the external factors, neighbouring



India's actions and omissions in this context and in terms of states sharing borders with land locked countries.

The mission was conducted by Dr. Meghna Guhathakurta, a prominent civil society activist and researcher and the current Executive Director of Research Initiative Bangladesh; Jatin Desai, SAHR Bureau Member, activist and journalist from India; and Mohamed Latheef, SAHR Bureau Member, former parliamentarian and

senior human rights activist from the Maldives. Deekshya Illangasinghe represented the SAHR Secretariat.

This mission by SAHR was significant as it has been conducted by a South Asian organisation whose terms have included a multifaceted perspective obtained through dialogue with both state and non state actors in the specific context. A report was released at the end of the mission. <sup>10</sup>

The report can be found at <a href="http://www.southasianrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/o6/Report-on-the-Fact-Finding-Mission-to-Nepal.pdf">http://www.southasianrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/o6/Report-on-the-Fact-Finding-Mission-to-Nepal.pdf</a>

# **Regional Consultation of Citizens' Voices**

The Regional Consultation of Citizens' Voices was held on 25 & 26 February 2016 in Kathmandu Nepal. Altogether about 50 participants attended the event including 30 from the region.

Through this Regional Consultation on Citizens' Voices SAHR expected to bring together many civil society activists including SAHR members, from all South Asian countries representing lawyers, professionals, politicians, experts in international studies and human rights, policy makers, the media and representatives of the affected communities. The objective of this Regional Consultation was to serve as a forum to share knowledge and experiences of strategizing to promote human rights and democracy in their own society, and discussions of effective strategies in the region for making state

institutions responsive to citizens' activism in promoting human rights and democratic practices. The main theme of the consultation was "South Asian Citizens' Voices on Democracy and Peoples' Security". The country perspectives were on



the themes Democratic Challenges and Peoples' Rights, Constitutional Making and Citizens' Participation, Freedom of Association and Freedom of Assembly and Participation of Women in Governance in South Asia. At the end of the consultation a Citizens' Voices Declaration was released.<sup>11</sup>

# Meeting with the SAARC Secretary General

A 13 member delegation representing the countries of South Asia met with the SAARC Secretary

General H.E. Arjun Thapa. At this meeting the delegation emphasized the need for SAARC's commitment to collaborate with civil society; the necessity to look into setting up a regional human rights mechanism; and the need for the regional body to engage in the efficacy of connectivity among the nations in the region. At this occasion a communiqué from SAHR was also presented to the Secretary General.<sup>12</sup>





The declaration can be found at <a href="http://www.southasianrights.org/?p=9517">http://www.southasianrights.org/?p=9517</a>

The communique can be found at . http://www.southasianrights.org/?p=9501

# ACTIVITY AREA 4: SOCIO ECONOMIC RIGHTS: PROMOTION, PROTECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

# Panel discussion on economic, social and cultural right to housing and protection against arbitrary evictions

This panel discussion held on 23 November 2014 in Kathmandu, Nepal brought together parliamentarians, lawyers, human rights defenders and other civil society members. The event

provided an opportunity to bring together civil society and legislators to highlight ESC issues that are neglected and yet affect more vulnerable populations, such as the poor, and result in further disempowerment. This is part of SAHR's programmatic objective of strengthening engagement of state and civil society.

Experts from six SAARC countries presented how they are using provisions contained in their country Constitutions, other laws and international standards to



advance the right to housing and prevent arbitrary evictions. Country perspectives on the status of right to housing and protection against arbitrary evictions were discussed. The experts were: Dr. Asadullah Ibrahim from Afghanistan, Dr. Ishrat Islam from Bangladesh, Mr. Datta Ishwalkar from India, Mr. Tara Bhadur Bhandari from Nepal, Mr. Tasneem Siddiqui from Pakistan and Ms. Iromi Perera from Sri Lanka.<sup>13</sup>

The event contributed to the formulation of recommendations for submissions to the SAARC governments on protecting the right to housing and preventing arbitrary evictions which was included in the final People's SAARC declaration.<sup>14</sup>

# Database and Narrative report on the history, development and current state of public interest litigation in ESC rights

Two phases of the programme were initiated: The first phase entailed the compiling/collecting of case studies and ESCR judgements at the regional level. <sup>15</sup> This is an ongoing activity and cases will be added from different sources. The second phase involved drafting of a narrative report based on the compiled cases to analyse success and failures in advancing ESC rights through courts and provide information on the mobilisation and collective actions of the public and the activists as well as the collaboration between the social activists and lawyers in promoting ESC Rights which will act as a manual on ESCR.

The objectives of the activity is to contribute to greater awareness on ESC rights and their protection through judicial intervention in the South Asian region; to provide an overview of emblematic

The details of the Panel Discussion can be found at <a href="http://www.southasianrights.org/?p=7798">http://www.southasianrights.org/?p=7798</a>

 $<sup>{}^{\</sup>text{14}} \quad \underline{\text{http://www.peoplesaarc.org/index.php/people-s-saarc-declarations/56-people-s-saarc-declaration-2014} \\$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> A database of judgements on ESCR can be found at http://escrj.southasianrights.org/

judgments pronounced by courts in the South Asian region that contribute to advancing ESC rights; and to analyse and provide an overview of the role played by social movements and NGOs in advancing ESC rights.

#### **ACTIVITY AREA 5: BORDER ISSUES**

### Research on border issues in the region

Research titled Nation State Boundaries and Human Rights of people in South Asia is under way. The focus of the study is on the SAARC countries, namely, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives, Bhutan, Pakistan and Afghanistan. The study approaches the issue from a human rights perspective, and therefore its focus is on how the boundaries between countries impact on the lives and livelihood of people living on both sides of the borders. Thus the main objective of this study is to map the different forms of human rights violations which take place, gather authentic data from the human rights perspective, and prepare the ground for taking up these issues in the form of a regional campaign towards protecting and promoting rights of the affected people. This would entail impact of the political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights on the people.

The report highlights the cross-border armed skirmishes between forces; law and practice of immunity to security forces at border areas; human rights violations by security forces across the borders; abuses arising out of border disputes; refugees; trafficking; and cross border development projects. In addition there will be sections on redress mechanisms and initiatives and examination of laws, judgements and policies. The research was carried out by Shomona Khanna.

#### **ACTIVITY AREA 6: WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN PEACE BUILDING**

#### South Asian Peace Mission in Dhaka, Bangladesh, 5 & 6 December

A fundamental objective of this initiative is to bring women into the mainstream security discourse in order to improve the prospects of peace not only at the national level, but to create greater opportunities for discourse on regional peace and security.



The first South Asians Peace Mission was successfully carried out on 5 – 6 December 2015 in Bangladesh. Human Rights Defenders from four countries participated in the mission: Dr. Sadeka Halim (Bangladesh), Dr. Aminath Jameel and Mr. Mohamed Latheef (The Maldives), Ms. Dharmita Mijar (Nepal), Ms. Hina Jilani and Ms. Naazish Ata-Ullah (Pakistan) and Ms. Shreen Abdul Saroor and Deekshya Illangasinghe (Sri Lanka). Bureau members of Bangladesh were advisors of the activity.

The mission had several meetings in Dhaka promoting women's contribution in building peace and the emphasis on enhancing knowledge on issues of transitional justice and women's understanding of the challenges that the political and social environment may present in maintaining international standards of justice. There was a meeting with the Civil Society representatives at Ain O' Salish Kendra. The mission met the acting foreign secretary and Dr. Gowher Rizvi, the advisor to the Prime Minister on International Relations. There was also a meeting with the academics, civil society representatives and media personnel. A press conference was held at the end of the mission and the mission's message was widely reported.

A capacity building/experience sharing session with the Faculty and the students of the Faculty of Law at the State University of Bangladesh. Each peace mission had a specific focus and in the case of Bangladesh it was "Transitional Justice" and the workshop held in University was a training session for the peace activists on transitional justice issues. The participants were able to learn and understand real life issues involved taking the Bangladesh experience. From this experience, women activists were able to understand not just the legal aspects, but the political environment in which transitional justice issues have to be promoted. Through evaluations SAHR has understood this as an innovative way of conducting capacity building trainings.<sup>16</sup>

# South Asian Peace Mission in Colombo, Sri Lanka, 19 – 21 December 2015

The Second South Asian Peace Mission was successfully conducted from 19 – 21 December in Sri Lanka. 10 Women Human Rights Defenders from four countries participated in the mission: Ms. Humira Saqib (Afghanistan), Dr. Amena Mohsin and Dr. Shanaz Huda (Bangladesh), Ms. Fathimath Nelfa (the Maldives), Ms. Bharati Silawal- Giri (Nepal), Ms. Bushra Gohar (Pakistan)

Ms. Saba Shaikh (Pakistan), Ms. Saroja Sivachandran and Ms. Nalini Ratnarajah (Sri Lanka).

The focus of this peace delegation was to give prominence to women's contribution in building peace and to give women practical insights into initiatives on post conflict reconstruction,



Relevant web links include the SAHR statement on South Asian Peace Mission in Bangladesh, 6 December 2015 <a href="http://www.southasianrights.org/?p=9298">http://www.southasianrights.org/?p=9298</a>; Pak Civil Society did not accept the military atrocity in 1971, New Age, 7 December 2015 <a href="http://newagebd.net/182237/pak-civil-society-did-not-accept-military-atrocityin-1971-hina-jilani/">http://www.thedilystar.net/not-accept-military-atrocityin-1971-hina-jilani/</a>; Right thinking Pakistanis acknowledge '71 brutalities to Bangladeshis Says Pak rights activist, Daily Star, 7 December 2015 <a href="http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/right-thinking-pakistanis-acknowledge-71-brutalities-183598">http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/right-thinking-pakistanis-acknowledge-71-brutalities-183598</a>

social reconciliation and the different dimensions of reparations for victims and affected communities, as a part of the capacity building training on peace and security. The objective of this mission was also on familiarizing women with the mainstream security discourse, so that they are able to negotiate the best possible post conflict policies at the political level. The members of the peace mission met many people with the message of regional peace and solidarity amongst South Asian civil societies during their stay in Sri Lanka including the following: The representatives of civil society in Colombo, Vavunia, Kilinochchi (Northern Province) and Trincomalee (Eastern Province); people affected by war in Puttalam district, the northern and the eastern province and people affected by the construction of the coal power plant in Sampur, Tricomalee; Chairperson and the Commissioners of the HRCSL; officials of the Office of the National Unity & the Reconciliation; and the Senior Human Rights Adviser, OHCHR. This mission too held a press conference to highlight the message of regional peace.<sup>17</sup>

## **Development of a South Asian Women's Peace Manifesto**

A peace manifesto was finalised and endorsed by mission members of both peace missions and was released at the end of the regional consultation on peace and security.<sup>18</sup>

# Regional Consultation on Women, Peace and Security

A regional consultation on the theme 'Human Rights, Peace and Security in South Asia – Where are the Women?' under SAHR programme area Women, Peace and Security was held on 22 & 23 in January 2016 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. This event was attended by about 25 participants from the region. Among them were senior and prominent human rights activists, women rights activists, media personnel, academics and lawyers from the region.

The main objective of the conference was to facilitate discussion among numerous South Asian expertise on human rights and social, economic and political dimensions of peace and security; to review and analyse the political and other dimensions of the security crisis in the South Asian region; and to make recommendations to ensure that gender perspective is fully reflected in the

design of all national or regional initiatives bringing in peace and security, whether undertaken by governments civil society actors. As the follow up activity participants discussed about holding a consultation emphasising the women's inclusivity and peace security discussion parallel to the



meetings between the governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan in 2016.

Relevant web links include the SAHR statement on the South Asian Peace Mission in Sri Lanka, 21 December 2015 <a href="http://www.southasianrights.org/?p=9335">http://www.southasianrights.org/?p=9335</a>; South Asian Human Rights Group visits Sri Lanka, The Sunday Leader, 27 December 2015 <a href="http://www.thesundayleader.lk/2015/12/27/south-asian-human-rights-group-visits-sri-lanka/">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ng1EHdJz4FQ</a>

http://www.southasianrights.org/?p=9513

# South Asian Peace Mission in Nepal

SAHR conducted a South Asian Peace Mission in Nepal from 11 – 13 July, 2016. SAHR's interest in conducting this Mission to Nepal is founded on the objective of the inclusivity of citizens' voices, especially women, in the overall dialogue on peace and security at the national and regional level; promoting women's empowerment and a well-informed gender perspective to be included in the mainstream initiatives on peace and security discourse; contribute to building institutions for democratic governance; respect for intranational and international obligations in sovereignty; transitional justice and conflict resolution; and the realization of human rights



and fundamental freedoms by the people. The Mission specifically aimed at assessing the efforts undertaken to mitigate the effects of the ten year internal conflict on masses, especially women; and to assess the role accorded to women in transitional justice process including prevention of conflict.

The Mission entailed 10 members from 7 countries: Ms. Palwasha Hassan (Afghanistan); Prof. Sadeka Halim (Bangladesh); Mr. D. J. Ravindran (India); Ms. Bhrati Silawal – Giri, Mr. Dinesh Tripathi and Dr. Priti Mandal (Nepal);Ms. Fathimath Afshan Latheef (the Maldives); Ms. Hina Jilani (Pakistan); Ms. Deekshya Illangasinghe and Ms. Anushaya Collure (Sri Lanka). The mission met the Prime Minister of Nepal, the Chief Justice, Minister of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Chairman of the Commission of the Truth and Reconciliation, Commissioners of the Human Rights Commission, Commission on the inquiry of enforced disappearances, Acting Chair of the National Women's Commission, Parliamentary Representatives and Civil Society Representatives as well as the country representative of UNICEF, UN Resident coordinator and the head of UN Women. Upon completion of the peace mission a statement was released.<sup>19</sup>

# **Meeting Civil Society in Kabul**

SAHR met several civil society representatives in Kabul from 27 – 29 July, 2016 with the purpose of obtaining information and sharing experiences on women's rights and peace and harmony of the communities and the security issues affecting the people of Afghanistan. The prevailing security situation in the country has been a concern of SAHR and



Found on <a href="http://www.southasianrights.org/?p=9689">http://www.southasianrights.org/?p=9689</a>

the organization hopes to work closely with the civil society to advocate for issues in Afghanistan at the regional level.

# Dialogue among the Civil Society Representatives of Afghanistan, Pakistan and India

SAHR and Afghan Women's Education Center (AWEC) jointly organised a dialogue among the civil society representatives from Afghanistan, Pakistan and India on 28 and 29 November 2016 in Kabul. The objective of the meeting was to identify the role of civil society groups particularly women's groups in facilitating peace and security in Afghanistan and to formulate recommendations for a joint civil society initiative towards peace and cooperation in the region.



The delegation also met with the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, High Peace Council and other government personnel to discuss their recommendations.

# LOOKING AHEAD

The focus of SAHR's programme for 2017 – 2019 is to build a strong human rights community in South Asia with sufficient intellectual work to give direction to activism and advocacy, and build platforms, alliances and networks for collective effort to protect and promote human rights. SAHR also intends to engage with governments in the region through a variety of initiatives in order to integrate human rights in governance and to enhance accountability of governments, including at the regional level by engagement with SAARC, the only regional inter-governmental body in South Asia.

SAHR has identified the following programme areas for the next three years which are

- Addressing grave human rights violations: Enforced Disappearances, Torture and Extra Judicial Killings
- 2. Democracy, Good Governance and the Rule of Law
- 3. Engagement with SAARC and Strengthening Citizens Agenda
- 4. Socio-economic rights: Promotion, Protection and Enforcement
- Main Objectives of the SAHR Programme
- Strengthening regional networks and platforms for human rights
- Developing knowledge on human rights issues and a regional agenda for collective advocacy on human rights, peace and democracy
- To promote and strengthen economic, social and cultural rights in South Asia
- To highlight cross border issues and strengthen State response towards it
- To build a women's peace movement in South Asia with a clear message on women's perspective on peace and security
- Developing guidelines for South Asian institutions such as parliaments, election commissions and national human rights institutions,in order for them to achieve

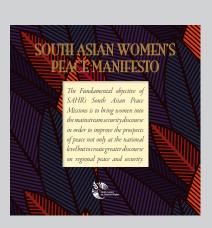
- 5. Women, Peace and Security
- 6. Pluralism and Tolerance
- 7. Right to Peaceful Protest
- 8. The Right to Defend Human Rights
- 9. SAHR regional desk for advocacy, information gathering and dissemination
- 10. Urgent actions on emerging contemporary themes/issues of concern
  - common standards of performance forthe creation of democratic structures and processes that facilitate the realization of rights by the people in the region.
- Deploying region-wide campaigns against serious human rights violations of common concern in the region and creating greater awareness of international human rights law and standards
- Equipping the legal community and those representing the rights of marginalized groups in the region with tools for empowerment of these groups through the judicial and legislative processes
- Engaging with SAARC on behalf of civil society to include human rights issues on its agenda

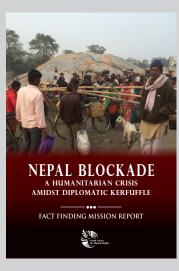
# **PUBLICATIONS**

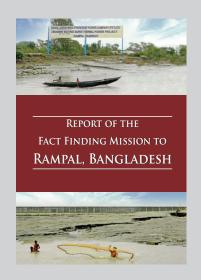
- Report of the Fact Finding Mission to Rampal, Bangladesh
- Justice Adrift: Rule of Law and Political Crisis in the Maldives
- South Asian's Women's Peace Manifesto
- Nepal Blockade: A Humanitarian Crisis amidst Diplomatic Kerfuffle

# **Pending Publications**

- Women, Peace and Security in South Asia including reports on SAHR's women's peace missions
- South Asian Citizens' Voices on Democracy and People's Security
- Nation State Boundaries and Human Rights of People in South Asia









# SAHR BUREAU

The SAHR Bureau Members elected by the membership continued to guide the organisation, under the guidance of Chairperson Hina Jilani, and Co-Chairperson Dr. Nimalka Fernando.

#### **AFGHANISTAN**

**Sarwar Mamound** has been involved in human rights activities in Afghanistan since 1996. As an activist he has been involved in the establishment of the Afghan Peace and Democracy Act (APDA) and has also been the Editor-in-Chief of the Afghan Peace Act Journal since 2003 which helps to raise awareness among the people of their basic human rights

#### **BANGLADESH**

**Khushi Kabir** is currently the coordinator of Nijera Kori, Bangladesh, a position she has held since 1980, where she works directly with landless peasants, both women and men, and other marginalised and excluded communities, through organising and mobilising them to assert and access their rights.

**Dr. Asif Nazrul** is a Professor of Law of the University of Dhaka. He is renowned as a researcher, columnist and civil society activist in Bangladesh. He also worked as Consultant to European Union Delegation, UNDP, ADB, DANIDA, SIDA, TIB, IUCN and other organizations on issues of good governance, access to justice, human rights, prevention of corruption and natural resource management.

Sultana Kamal is the former Executive Director of Ain O Salish Kendra, Lawyer and human rights activist. She was appointed as an advisor to the caretaker government in October 2006 from which she resigned with 3 other colleagues in December the same year. She was active in Kachi Kanchar



Mela, Sangskriti Sangsad, Struggles for Cultural Autonomy and the '69 mass upheaval as well as other social activism.

#### **INDIA**

**Vrinda Grover** is a Delhi-based human rights lawyer, researcher and activist and the former director of Multiple Action Research Group (MARG). She has also served as the trustee at the Centre for Social Justice and Board member for Green Peace.

**Jatin Desai** is an activist and journalist, and is the national joint secretary of the Pakistan-India People's Forum for Peace & Democracy.

**D.J Ravindran** has more than 25 years of experience in working for human rights at local, regional and international level. He has worked with International Commission for Jurists for 8 years and was instrumental in the establishment of Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development. He has worked as Director of Human Rights Division with the UN mission in East Timor, Libya and the Sudan.

#### **MALDIVES**

Mohamed Latheef has worked in different capacities such as, as an independent journalist, human rights activist, parliamentarian and civil society activist to transform the Maldives from a feudalistic to a more inclusive, democratic and citizen oriented society. He was jailed several times for his efforts for reform. In 2003, Latheef went into exile and started the freedom movement.

#### **NEPAL**

**Dinesh Tripathi** is an Advocate in the Supreme Court of Nepal and has been a human rights lawyer for more than 15 years and is also the Chairperson of the World Vision Advocacy Forum, Nepal

#### **PAKISTAN**

Hina Jilani is an Advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan and a human rights activist. She founded the first women's law firm in Pakistan in 1980 and Pakistan's first legal aid center in 1986. Ms. Jilani is also one of the founders of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and the Women's Action Forum. From 2000 to 2008, she was the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Human Rights Defenders. In 2006, she was appointed to the UN International Fact-Finding Commission on Darfur, Sudan and in 2009 she was appointed to the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict. She has been a member of The Elders, a group of independent global leaders brought together by Nelson Mandela, since 2013 and is currently the President of the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT).

**Zohra Yusuf** is currently the Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. She was also elected to the international board of the Paris-based International Federation for Human

as a President in 2013. She leads many fact-finding of HRCP, missions focusing on rights violation in different parts of the country. As a freelance journalist she contributes to major Pakistani publications on issues of human rights and the media.



**Kamran Arif** is a lawyer by profession and has been associated with the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) since 1992. He is currently the Senior Legal Advisor for Open Society Foundation – Pakistan.

**Tahseen Muhammad** is actively engaged in different national and international networks and movements for peace, ecology, democracy and human rights. He is the founding Executive Director for South Asia Partnership Pakistan and was a founding member of Pakistan NGO Forum. He has been awarded the Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Human Rights Award by the President of Pakistan.

#### **SRI LANKA**

**Dr. Nimalka Fernando** is an attorney-at-law and a women's rights activist, from Sri Lanka. She is a presently the Chairperson of the International Movement Against all Forms of Discrimination (IMADR). She was Regional Co-ordinator of the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, Malaysia from 1989 – 1994 and was Programme Director for the Women's Human Rights Project (1994–1996). She is also a convenor of the Platform for Freedom and a Committee Member of Mothers and Daughters of Lanka. She has wide experience being a human rights defender's trainer and resource person for women's empowerment

**Lakshan Dias** is a prominent human rights lawyer and an active member of the Lawyers collective. He is currently the Chairperson of Transparency International Sri Lanka and also of Rights Now Collective for Democracy. He was the former National General Secretary of National Council of YMCAs of Sri Lanka.

Tahirih Qurratulayn is an Independent Consultant in the Development sector and has over

three decades experience working with the health. humanitarian and development sectors. She has been a Regional Trainer on "Child Led Disaster Risk Reduction"



(CLDRR) for Save the Children UK/ Sweden and has been involved in many training activities in knowledge management & capacity building with the Government and the development sectors (INGOs & NGOs) She is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Institute of Human Rights.

Extracts from the Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2014



141/3, 2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR, VAUXHALL STREET, COLOMBO 02, SRI LANKA.

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# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMEBERS OF SOUTH ASIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

## 1. Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **South Asians for Human Rights** which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 31st December 2014, the
Statement of Comprehensive Income, and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended,
and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes as set out on
these financial statements.

### 2. Members Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Bureau Members are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standard applicable for Small and medium - sized Entities (SLFRS for SMEs). This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are resonable in the circumstances.

### 3. Scope of Audit and Basis of Opinion

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estmiates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of financial statements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit. We therefore believe that our audit provides a resonable basis for our opinion.

## 4. Opinion

In our opinion so far as appears from our examination, the company maintained proper accounting records for the year ended 31st December 2014 and the financial statements give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 31st December 2014 and its surplus and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standards applicable for Small and Medium - sized Entities (SLFRS for SMEs).

## 5. Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In our opion, these financial statements also comply with the requirements of Section 151(2) of the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007.

Chartered Accountants

Date: 28/05/2015

Colombo 02.

# STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2014

	2014		2013	}
	Rs.	USD	Rs.	USD
Income				
Grants Income	17,877,603	137,663	295,123	2,280
Other Income	72,418	558	1,711,018	13,219
Total Income	17,950,021	138,221	2,006,141	15,499
Less: Expenses				
Programme Expenses	11,937,578	91,923	125,000	966
Supporting Staff Expenses	4,658,335	35,871	2,883,303	22,275
Office Expenses	1,327,122	10,219	1,145,933	8,853
Total Expenditure	17,923,035	138,013	4,154,236	32,094
Taxation	-	-		_
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	26,986	208	(2,148,095)	(16,595)

The above Statement of Comprehensive Income is to be read in conjunction with the accounting policies and notes to the financial statements appear on pages of to 20 which form an integral part of these financial statements.

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

#### **AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2014**

	2014		2013	
	Rs.	USD	Rs.	USD
<u>Assets</u>				
Non Current Assets				
Property, Plant & Equipment	80,717	619	38,985	301
Intangible Assets	-	-		_
	80,717	619	38,985	301
Current Assets				
Chapter Receivables	242,618	1,886	226,430	1,749
Payments In Advance	185,500	1,423	164,500	1,271
Cash & Cash Equivalents	24,098,297	184,391	28,721,020	221,887
	24,526,415	187,700	29,111,950	224,907
Total Assets	24,607,132	188,319	29,150,935	225,208
Fund & Liabilities				
<u>Fund</u>				
Accumulated Fund	10 440 101	04.00	4 4 70 4 270	442244
Balance Brought Forward	12,558,184	96,337	14,706,279	116,611
Net Surplus/ (Deficit) for the Year Effect on Retranslation	26,986	208	(2,148,095)	(16,595)
Effect off Retranslation	12,585,170	(1,128) 95,417	12,558,184	(3,679) 96,337
Non Current Liabilities	12,303,170	73,417	12,550,104	70,337
Retirement Benefit Obligations	291,500	2,925	120,299	1,611
Deferred Grants	11,237,688	86,205	16,200,583	125,159
	11,529,188	89,130	16,320,882	126,770
Current Liability	, ,	,	, ,	,
Payables	299,705	2,291	271,869	2,100
Overdrafts	193,069	1,481	_	-
	492,774	3,772	271,869	2,100
Total Fund & Liabilities	24,607,132	188,319	29,150,935	225,208

The above Statement of Financial Position to be read in conjunction with the accounting policies and the notes from pages of to 20 form an integral part of these financial statements.

I certify that the financial statements have been prepared presented in compliance with the requirements of the companies Act No. 7 of 2007.

The members of the board are responsible for the preparation and presentation of these financial statements.

Approved and Signed for and on behalf of the organization.

Executive Director
Date:-28/05/2015
Colombo 08.

# **STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

# FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2014

	2014		2013	2013		
	Rs.	USD	Rs.	USD		
Cash Flow from Operating Activities						
(Deficit) /Surplus for the year	26,986	208	(2,148,095)	(16,595)		
Adjustment for						
Gratuity Provision	171,201	1,313	(29,459)	(228)		
Assets Disposal Profit	(450)	(3)	-	-		
Depreciations	67,402	521	17,358	189		
Amortization of Intangible Assets	-	-	9,166	-		
Interest Income	(52,877)	(407)	(19,996)	(561)		
	212,262	1,632	(2,171,026)	(17,195)		
(Deficit)/Surplus Operating surplus before changes in working capital						
Changes in Working Capital						
Decrease / (Increase) in Receivables	(16,188)	(137)	29,556	289		
(Increase) / Decrease in Payment in Advance	(21,000)	(152)	(2,500)	19		
Increase/ (Decrease) in Payables	27,836	191	(2,946,432)	(23,531)		
Total Working Capital Changes	(9,352)	(98)	(2,919,376)	(23,223)		
Gratuity Paid	_	_	(557,452)	(4,307)		
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	202,910	1,534				
1 0	202,910	1,534	(5,647,854)	(44,725)		
Cash Flow from Investing Activities	,	,	, , , ,	, , ,		
Acquisition of Property, Plant & Equipment	(109,134)	(840)	-	_		
Cash Received from Assets Disposal	450	3	-	_		
Interest Received	52,877	407	19,996	561		
Net Cash Generated from / (Used in) Investing Activities	(55,807)	(430)	19,996	561		
Cash Flow from Financing Activities						
Grants Received / (Utilized) for the Year	(4,962,895)	(38,954)	16,200,583	125,159		
Net Cash Generated from / (Used in) Financing	(4,962,895)	(38,954)	16,200,583	125,159		
Activities	( ) , ,	()/	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	,,		
Net (Decrease) / Increase in Cash & Cash Equivalents	(4,815,792)	(37.849)	10,572,726	80,995		
for the Year	(-,,,	(-1,-1,	,,			
Effect of foreign currency transaction	-	(1,128)	-	(3,648)		
Cash & Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Year	28,721,020	221,887	18,148,294	144,539		
Cash & Cash Equivalents at the End of the Year	23,905,228	182,910	28,721,020	221,887		
Analysis of the Cash and Cash Equivalents shown in Statement of Financial Position						
Fixed Deposit A/C -911502638008 (LKR)	11,289,664	86,604	11,276,129	87,115		
Savings A/C - 18 1502638 01 (LKR)	1,537,091	11,791	1,094,542	8,456		
SLR Current Account - 01150263801	(193,069)	(1,481)	145,301	1,123		
Call Deposit - Standard Chartered Bank	10,627,688	82,343	16,178,975	124,992		
Credit Card	275,375	2,112				
Cash in Hand - Foreign Currency	337,007	1,299	20,340	157		
Cash in Hand - Membership	16,437	126	1,120	9		
Petty Cash	15,035	115	4,613	36		
	23,905,228	182,910	28,721,020	221,887		

Extracts from the Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2015



141/3, 2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR, VAUXHALL STREET, COLOMBO 02, SRI LANKA.

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# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMEBERS OF SOUTH ASIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

## 1. Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **South Asians for Human Rights** which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 31st December 2015, the
Statement of Comprehensive Income, and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended,
and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes as set out on
these financial statements.

### 2. Members Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Bureau Members are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standard Small and Medium - sized Entities (SLFRS for SMEs). This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are resonable in the circumstances.

### 3. Scope of Audit and Basis of Opinion

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estmiates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of financial statements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit. We therefore believe that our audit provides a resonable basis for our opinion.

### 4. Opinion

In our opinion so far as appears from our examination, the company maintained proper accounting records for the year ended 31st December 2015 and the financial statements

give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 31st December 2015 and its surplus and cash flows for the year then eded, in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standards for Small and Medium sized Entities (SLFRS for SMEs).

### 5. Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

These financial statements also comply with the requirements of Section 151 of the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007.

As required by Section 163(2) of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007, we state the following:

- a) The basis of opinion and scope and limitations of the audit are as stated above,
- b) In out opinion:
  - We have obtained all the information and explanations that were rerquired for the audit and, as far as appears from our examination, proper accounting records have been kept by the Company.
  - The financial statements of the Company give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31st December 2015, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standards.
  - The financial statements of the Company comply with the requirements of Sections 151 and 153 of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007.

Chartered Accountants

Date: 29/06/2016

# STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2015**

	2015		2014	
	Rs.	USD	Rs.	USD
Income				
Grant Income	18,647,400	136,862	17,877,603	137,663
Other Income	2,931,450	21,514	72,418	558
Total Income	21,578,850	158,376	17,950,021	138,221
Less: Expenses				
Programme Expenses	11,384,978	83,556	11,937,578	91,923
Supporting Staff Expenses	5,703,434	41,862	4,658,335	35,871
Office Expenses	1,502,832	11,033	1,327,122	10,219
Total Expenditure	18,591,244	136,451	17,923,035	138,013
Taxation	-	-	-	-
Surplus for the Year	2,987,606	21,925	26,986	208

The above Statement of Comprehensive Income is to be read in conjunction with the accounting policies and notes to the financial statements appear on pages of to 21 which form an integral part of these financial statements.

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

#### **AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2015**

	2015		2014	
	Rs.	USD	Rs.	USD
Assets				
Non Current Assets				
Property, Plant and Equipment	12,720	90	80,717	619
Intangible Assets	_	-		
	12,720	90	80,717	619
Current Assets				
Chapter Receivables	83,313	587	83,366	664
Deposits, Advances and Prepayments	588,891	4,149	344,752	2,645
Cash and Cash Equivalents	32,920,211	231,932	24,098,297	184,391
	33,592,415	236,668	24,526,415	187,700
Total Assets	33,605,135	236,758	24,607,132	188,319
Fund and Liabilities				
<u>Fund</u>				
Accumulated Fund				
Balance at the Beginning of the Year	12,585,170	95,418	12,558,184	96,337
Net Surplus for the Year	2,987,606	21,925	26,986	208
Effect on Retranslation	-	(7,627)	_	(1,128)
	15,572,776	109,715	12,585,170	95,418
Non Current Liabilities				
Retirement Benefit Obligation	465,000	3,276	291,500	2,925
Deferred Grants	17,116,461	120,589	11,237,688	86,205
	17,581,461	123,865	11,529,188	89,130
Current Liability				
Other Payables	450,899	3,178	299,705	2,291
Overdraft	-	-	193,069	1,481
	450,899	3,178	492,774	3,772
Total Fund and Liabilities	33,605,135	236,758	24,607,132	188,319

The above Statement of Financial Position to be read in conjunction with the accounting policies and notes to the financial statements appearing on pages of to 21 form an integral part of these financial statements.

I certify that the financial statements have been prepared presented in compliance with the requiments of the companies Act No. 7 of 2007.

Finance In-Charge

The Members of the Board are responsible for the preparation and presentation of these financial statements.

Approved and Signed for and on behalf of the organization.

Executive Director Date :- 29/06/2016

# **STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

# **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2015**

	2015		2014	
	Rs.	USD	Rs.	USD
Cash Flow from Operating Activities				
Surplus for the Year	2,987,606	21,925	26,986	208
Adjustment for	450 500	2	454.004	1 212
Gratuity Provision	173,500	351	171,201	1,313
Assets Disposal Profit	210 472	- 1 5/5	(450)	(3)
Depreciation Interest Income	210,472 (32,680)	1,545 (240)	67,402 (52,877)	521 (407)
(Deficit)/Surplus Operating surplus before changes	3,338,898	23,581	212,262	1,633
in working capital	3,330,070	23,301	212,202	1,033
Changes in Working Capital			(,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	( <del></del> -
Decrease/(Increase) in Receivables	53	77	(16,188)	(137)
(Increase)/ Decrease in Payment in Advance	(244,139)	(1,504)	(21,000)	(152)
Increase in Other Payables  Total Working Capital Changes	151,194 (92,892)	(540)	<u>27,836</u> (9,352)	<u>191</u> (98)
Total Working Capital Changes	(92,092)	(340)	(9,332)	(96)
Gratuity Paid	-	-	-	-
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	3,246,006	23,041	202,910	1,534
The Cush Flow from Operating Retivities	3,246,006	23,041	202,910	1,534
Cash Flow from Investing Activities	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	,	,-
Acquisition of Property, Plant and Equipment	(142,475)	(1,016)	(109,134)	(840)
Cash Received from Assets Disposal	-	-	450	3
Interest Received	32,680	240	52,877	407
Net Cash Generated from / (Used in) Investing Activities	(109,795)	(776)	(55,807)	(430)
Cash Flow from Financing Activities				
Grants Received / (Utilized) for the Year	5,878,773	34,384	(4,962,895)	(38,954)
Net Cash Generated from / (Used in) Financing Activities	5,878,773	34,384	(4,962,895)	(38,954)
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash & Cash	9,014,983	56,649	(4,815,792)	(37,849)
Equivalent for the Year	7,014,763	30,049	(4,013,792)	(37,047)
Effect of Foreign Currency Transaction	-	(7,627)	-	(1,128)
Cash & Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Year	22 005 220	182,910	28,721,020	221 007
	23,905,228	102,710		221,887
Cash & Cash Equivalents at the End of the Year	32,920,211	231,932	23,905,228	182,910
Analysis of the Cash and Cash Equivalents shown	in Statement o	of Financial	Position	
Fixed Deposit A/C -911502638008 (LKR)	_	-	11,289,664	86,604
Savings A/C - 18 1502638 01 (LKR)	734,068	5,172	1,537,091	11,791
SLR Current Account - 01150263801	71,047	501	(193,069)	(1,481)
Call Deposit - Standard Chartered Bank	18,664,681	131,497	10,627,688	82,343
Fixed Deposit 91502638009	12,384,381	87,251	-	-
Credit Card	_	-	275,375	2,112
Cash in Hand - Foreign Currency	869,333	6,125	337,007	1,299
Cash in Hand - Membership	196,701	1,386	16,437	126
Petty Cash	-	-	15,035	115
	32,920,211	231,932	23,905,228	182,910





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