



We are with HER for a violence free Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, more than 1 in 3 female homicides in 5 provinces were related to violence by intimate partners. Violence can impact women physically, psychologically and economically, and has serious implication on their health, their families and communities. Responding to this violence requires a range of interlinked actions.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) together with the High Commission of Canada and the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development is working to strengthen prevention and response services for women and girls that experience violence. The two and a half year programme 'We are with HER' aims to position public sector officials as advocates working to address violence against women and girls.

To ensure that decision makers, doctors, nurses, social workers, counsellors, police officers, lawyers and legal aid officers all stand **with** women and girls, by ensuring they receive all the support they need to stop the violence and recover from its effects.



Violence against women is a grave violation of human rights

Different forms of violence experienced by women

- Physical violence
- Sexual Violence
- Emotional Abuse
- Economic Violence
- Trafficking
- Sexual Assault
- Child Marriage
- Cyber bullying



We are training and sensitizing public service officials on violence against women and girls to ensure that survivors don't feel helpless or isolated when seeking help.



We are piloting quality, interlinked response services of the Health, Social and Police & Justice sectors, so that women and girls receive relevant, dedicated services, every step of the way.



We are gathering data on the wider issue of violence against women and girls to drive evidence based policies that ensure women and girls are protected throughout their lives.



9 January 2018

Letter of agreement signed for a grant arrangement of CDN\$900,000, for the delivery of the project to address sexual and gender based violence through public institutions through March 2020.



5 July 2018

Launch of global guidance tool in Sri Lanka for interlinking services in the health, social and police and justice sectors. Coordination between sectors improves response to the multiple needs of women and girls who have experienced violence.



5-6 July 2018

Two day workshop on the coordination and quality assurance of services responding to women and girls subject to violence conducted with Government ministries and departments, frontline service providers, UN agencies, Civil Society Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations.



August - October 2018

A series of workshops were conducted in Ampara, Anuradhapura, Vavuniya and Colombo in partnership with the Human Rights Commission, for officers from the Human Rights Commission, the Legal Aid Commission and the Public Services Commission. The workshops focused on practical measures officials can take, to prevent situations where victims of violence could face discrimination when seeking support.



February 2019 (ongoing)

Partnership with the Department of Census and Statistics, to gather data on the wider issue of violence against women and girls, to drive evidence based policies that address and prevent violence against women and girls.



January 2019

Directories listing response services across health, social and police and justice sectors finalized for Mannar and Hambantota.



October 2018 (ongoing)

District level consultations began in Mannar and Hambantota to identify gaps and strengthen coordination between existing services. Consultations will lead to a pilot of interlinked response services of the Health, Social and Police & Justice sectors for women and girls who experienced violence.



August 2018 (ongoing)

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) support provided to the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development to improve implementation and impact of programmes conducted to address violence against women and girls.



Message from UNFPA Representative, Ms. Ritsu Nacken

Violence against women and girls is widespread, systemic and culturally entrenched. As the leading UN agency addressing violence against women and girls in Sri Lanka, UNFPA is taking a collaborative approach to bring a wide range of stakeholders together to effectively respond to this national issue.

In our work we bring victims and survivors at the center of our support by recognizing their individual and unique needs and respecting their rights and dignity. It is vital that our support is coordinated, so that she will not be victimized or feel isolated while seeking help.



Message from the Canadian High Commissioner, H.E. David McKinnon

Women are powerful agents of change, development and peace. Canada believes that when women are empowered and able to develop their full economic potential, economies thrive. However, violence against women and girls jeopardizes economic growth and sustainable development. Evidence-based policies, laws and regulations and gender-sensitive public services are required to address this problem.

Canada is happy to partner with UNFPA, the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, and other stakeholders on the initiative "Addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence through Public Institutions in Sri Lanka".