

## **THANUJA NAVARATNE**

### ***Attorney-at-Law, Notary Public and Company Secretary***

Diploma in Human Rights Law / LLM (Masters in Law)

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#### **Work Experience**

##### **National Project Coordinator**

##### **UNDP Sri Lanka / United Nations in Sri Lanka**

Sep 2009- July 2016

- Designing and implementing HR ( Human Rights) interventions/ HR advocacy/ Research/Analysis with NHRI, UN agencies, legislation makers, academics, international organizations, media, trade unions, Police and Military, Youth, multi Religious Leaders & civil society for promotion, protection and advancement of Human Rights in Sri Lanka.
- Preparation of Project Proposals, Annual Work Plans & budgets;
- Preparation of Periodic reports and Donor reports
- Conducting periodic Capacity Assessments with international evaluators & Preparation of Capacity Building Plans for NHRI;Building Capacity of NHRI & it's staff
- Providing support for NHRI to draw up its strategic plan & budgets

- Planning & organizing workshops, seminars & conferences for awareness & debates on HR with Parliamentarians & legislation makers of all political structures ( Provincial, Local Government), media, government officials, Police, Military, Trade Unions, Professionals, multi Religious leaders, NGOs, Community Based Organizations, Youth, Women Leaders & Civil Society
- Planning & conducting interactive dialogues, panel discussions & training on HR themes including Women's, Children's, Disability, Reproductive Rights, GBV etc
- Initiating, designing and conducting dialogues on HR & capacity building among legislation makers, UN country team and NHRI
- Conceptualizing and Organizing 2 day Residential workshop for Members of Parliament on HR
- Educating Ministry Secretaries on HR instruments & their applicability through an interactive workshop.
- Facilitating engagement of civil society & building CS networks on HR advocacy in all districts of the country linking them with HRC Regional Offices.
- Developing training curriculum for HR for multi stakeholders .
- Conceptualizing & initiating the process together with NHRI, Education Professionals, Ministry Of Education and National Institute of Education on inclusion of HR in regular school curriculum in Sri Lanka.

- Organizing consultations with multi stakeholders & forwarding recommendations from SL to UN WG on Elders Rights Convention, report by NHRI to Universal Periodic Review & recommendations by NHRI on national Disability laws.
- Develop M & E Plans & Monitor & Evaluate project activities periodically.

## **Coordinator Fundraising, Communications, Advocacy and Donor Reporting-**

### **Basic Needs Foundation UK**

Sep 2008- Sep

2009

Working for and with persons affected by mental illness and mental health issues on their rights.

- Developed a funding proposal on "Improving Mental Health of Children", which was one of the 4 awarded funding proposals in the European Commission funding competitive bid for human rights in 2009.

- Designed and executed policy and social advocacy together with persons with mental health issues, their families, academics, professionals, religious leaders, government officers, politicians and wider civil society in order to promote rights of persons with mental illnesses/issues and to re integrate to society persons who had recovered from mental health issues/ mental illnesses.
- Established and coordinated operations of a “media network” to bring issues and rights of persons affected with mental health problems and mentally ill persons and their families.
- Conducting training on advocacy and reporting to partner organizations and awareness programmes on rights of persons who are mentally ill and affected by mental health issues to different target audiences.
- Development of Communication material.
- Designing & executing programmes to reintegrate to society, persons who had recovered from long term mental illnesses.
- Handled periodical reporting to all the Donor agencies and government.

### **Advocacy Advisor**

#### **Save The Children International, Sri Lanka**

July 2006- July 2008

- Designing and executing advocacy interventions with a variety of stakeholders.

- Building and maintaining a "Parliamentarians Lobby Group for children's rights" through which policy advocacy work was carried out.
- Building and maintaining a "Civil Society Network for Children's Rights" & "Children's Network for Child Rights" and building a "Media Collective on Child Rights" for Child Rights Advocacy.
- Functioning as a Member of international network for Child Rights.
- Developing a fundraising proposal on "Realizing Children's Rights" which won at the European Commission competitive bid in 2008.
- Organizing conferences, workshops & seminars for Members of Parliament, Judges, government officials, civil society & children.
- Preparation of Advocacy Plan, Advocacy documents & advocacy monitoring plan for the organization. Conducting training on Advocacy.
- Preparation of Thematic Programme Plans, budgets, Bi Annual & Annual reports on 'Realizing Child Rights' thematic area
- Doing presentations & delivering lectures at different forums for a variety of stakeholders on child rights & rights of persons with disabilities.

- Functioning as a Member of the Panel on “Advocacy on inclusive education” which consists organizations & persons involved in education & disability issues.
- Functioning as a Member of the “ De institutionalization committee” which works on reintegration into the community children in institutions, appointed & coordinated by the Ministry of Child Development of SL government.
- Providing input into preparation & execution of all research work undertaken by Save the Children Sri Lanka. And preparing “Advocacy Plans” based on them.

### **Advocacy and Communications Manager**

**Leonard Ceshire International, in Sri Lanka Jan 2006-June 2006**

- Designing and implementing advocacy and communication interventions on rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- organizing & conducting trainings and seminars for different stakeholders;
- Preparation of advocacy & communication documents and media releases;
- Lobbying to international donors, government and private sector.

## National Project Coordinator

### Motivation Charitable Trust UK, in Sri Lanka

*National Coordinator of “Access for All” project done on rights of PWDs in the reconstruction & development process in Sri Lanka following Tsunami & war, together with Local Disabled persons organizations(DOJF)& International NGOs ( Handicap International,USAID, OXFAM GB,Motivation, Christoffel Blinded Mission International & John Grooms) & Government Ministries.*

- Spokesperson of the advocacy & Media campaign of the “Access for All” campaign.
- Organizing ‘Press Conferences’ with the involvement of politicians & high ranking government officials.
- Successfully leading the lobbying of the consortium for legalizing of rights of Physical Accessibility for the disabled; ( legalized in Sri Lanka in 2007 through Accessibility Regulations)
- Addressing high level donor meetings & forums on inclusion of persons with disabilities in all their agenda’s and providing needed technical support & know how to develop the process to achieve this.
- Securing many media interviews;

Interviewed by international media on disability issues as the officiating guest of Oxfam Trail walker Fund raising event in Hong Kong; Invited for many interviews/ programmes in electronic & press media in Sri Lanka.

- Preparation of advocacy documents & press releases on disability issues & rights;
- Preparation of project Proposals & reviews. ( My proposal on “ advocating on disability rights at regional level” awarded by Oxfam GB in 2006)
- Delivering lectures & doing presentations at forums on disability theme.
- Lobbying with/to international donors, government officials, politicians, rebel armed groups, private sector and masses as a network.
- Providing technical support to different stakeholders to implement accessible constructions.

All this work was carried out even in conflict affected/ rebel ruled areas in Sri Lanka.

**Legal Consultant**



- Handling all counseling & instructing work in all civil & criminal litigations involving the institutions attached to Ministry.
- Representing Companies under the Ministry in court houses around the country.
- Preparation of legal documentation, agreements & deeds
- Representing the Ministry at disciplinary inquiries of Ministry employees, arbitration matters before the financial ombudsman & in Labour courts
- Liaising with Attorney General's department & other governmental/ private bodies
- Functioning as Board Secretary & Company Secretary of Lanka Salusala Ltd ( a company under the Ministry).

**Secretary (attached to Deputy Minister's office)**

## **Ministry Of Plantation Industries of Sri Lanka government**

**May 2002-Sep 2003**

Handling coordination and administrative work at the Deputy Minister's office.

### **Professional Assistant at Litigation Branch of Company Law Division**

**F. J & G. de Saram Law firm Colombo, Sri Lanka Jan 2001-May 2002**

- Handling instructing & counseling work on Company Law, Arbitrations, Labour Law and other Commercial matters;
- Handling company secretarial work for high profile Companies;
- Handling Negotiations/ arbitrations between high profile companies who are parties to commercial disputes;
- Traveling extensively within the country to appear in court houses all over the country.

### **Attorney-at-Law, Notary Public and Company Secretary**

**Independent Legal Practice**

**June 1993- Jan 2001**

- Handling instructing and counselling work on Civil/ Criminal litigation, Labour cases, Writ Applications, Company Matters and Fundamental Rights applications.
- Appearing in open courts and arguing cases in Labour Tribunals, Magistrates , District , High, Appeal and Supreme Courts.
- Handling Company Arbitration matters.
- Handling Company Secretarial work and executing Commercial Contracts/ Agreements.
- Handling Deed work and Contracts and agreements.

### **TRAINING and WORKSHOPS attended**

- Regional Review Workshop on Capacity Assessments of NHRIs Bangkok 2012
- Representing UNDP Sri Lanka at Global UNDP Human Rights Community of Practice Conference in Costa Rica. 2011
- Following 5 day international conference on “Human Rights Education” at University of Sydney, Australia. 2010

- Contributing at 4 day Expert Group Meeting on Social Inclusion, Gender Equality and Health Promotion . UNESCAP Bangkok. 2009
- Presenting paper “ Inclusive education” at Common Wealth Study and research Conference on “ Disability & Development” India. 2008
- Evaluating & providing recommendations on programmes carried out from 2005-2009 in 4 districts Sri Lanka by Handicap International to monitor, evaluate & plan their future programmes. 2009
- Participating in a 8 day EU Development Summer School on “Getting reduction of Global Poverty & Social Inclusion in Political Agendas at local, national & European levels” Netherlands. 2008

Conducting the session on “Sensitizing & Educating Politicians on development.

- Following an Advanced 8 day capacity building “Rights Based Child Participation” by DRUVA( CWC) India . 2008

- Attending Topic Network CRC Global 5 day workshop conducted by Save The Children Norway in Nepal , as a network member.  
2007

- Attending 8 day European Union Development Education Summer School organized by DEEEP & CONCORD on “ Advocating on Millenium Development Goals” in Slovakia.  
2007

Conducting session on “ working with politicians & decision makers”.

- Attending the 4 day training on “ United Nations HR Instruments and their applicability” organized by Save the Children Sweden in Nepal.  
2007

- Following a 8 day advanced training course on “ Planning & Executing Advocacy” Conducted by David Cohen ( President- Advocacy Institute Washington DC)  
2006

- Following a 2 week advanced international training on “ Human Rights And Disability” organized by SIDA in Sweden.  
2006

- Functioning as a Member of the 5 member committee on “Disability” in Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka organizing international forum on “Disability Rights” in Sri Lanka  
2006

- Attending 5 day UNESCAP workshop on “ Emergencies & Vulnerable Persons” Thailand. 2005  
Presenting “ Situation of Persons with Disabilities in Emergencies”.  
Recommendations made on PWDs chosen to be forwarded to UN agencies.

- Attending UNESCAP workshop on “Emergencies & Vulnerable Persons” Sri Lanka. 2005 .  
Presenting “ Effects of Tsunami on PWDs & recommendations to government” .
- Following a 2 day workshop organized by UNDP on “ Violence Against women & CEDAW convention” Sri Lanka. 2005 Sep
- Attending as the “Officiating Guest” at Oxfam Trail walker Fund raising event in Hong Kong.  
2005 Oct.  
Ceremoniously opening the event with the Governor Of Hong Kong.  
Addressing all international & national Media at press briefings & giving interviews to media in China and Hong Kong including CNN.  
Addressing at functions organized by Disabled Peoples Organizations in Hong Kong.
- Following a 4 day international conference on “Disaster Management” conducted by Common Wealth in India 2005

### **Extra Curricular Activities**

- ✚ An invited Member of the “ **Women’s Empowerment Group**” formed by women politicians at Parliament and provincial levels, belonging to all parties in Sri Lanka.  
Was invited to take part as a Member of the Collective formed by Women Politicians in SL. The group included, women Parliament MPs, Provincial level MPs, Municipal Council MPs and former women Parliamentarians. This was led by then Hon. Minister of Housing and Public Amenities Mrs. Ferial Ashraf.

The purpose of the collective was to encourage and build skills of women's groups in order to have more women taking part in active politics.

I was a member of the group and I did the preparation of advocacy/communication documents and supporting organizing of events and other work of the group. We also engaged in capacity building and attitude building of rural women, in order to promote their skills to engage in active political decision making and political work. The group also organised activities to promote livelihood opportunities for women, to strengthen their role at home and in the society.

- ✚ An active Member of Animal Rights and Welfare organizations.
- ✚ **Conducting lectures & workshops** for government officials in Kandy district under the patronage of Government Agent on **legal education**.  
1995-2000
- ✚ **Organizing free legal camps** in remote villages in Kandy districts, with the help of lawyers from Kandy Bar.  
1995-2000
- ✚ Functioning as one of the **organizers** of Asia Pacific Law Conference in Colombo.  
1993 Sep
- ✚ Laying initial work to organize **an island wide Cricket Fan Club** to support Sri Lanka cricket team.  
1984-1989
- ✚ Organizing & operating a **Fan Club for a popular Film Actor** in Sri Lanka, who is a Member of Parliament at present. (Presently a Deputy Minister)  
1984-1990
- ✚ Member of school **Quiz team & Debating team**  
1982-1989

✚ First price in all island English & Sinhala **Essay** contests.  
1987

✚ District level wins at inter school English & Sinhala **Oratorical competitions.**  
1983-1989

✚ District level wins at inter school **song competitions.**  
**1983-1989**