

*as at 20 March 2018*

**ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS,  
RECONCILIATION  
AND GOOD GOVERNANCE IN SRI LANKA**

**January 2015 – March 2018**

STEP	OBSERVATIONS	DATE
<b>MARCH 2018</b>		
<b>Sri Lanka's UPR Report adopted by the HRC</b>	Having participated in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> cycle of the UPR on 15 November 2017, Sri Lanka's UPR report was adopted by the UN Human Rights Council on 19 March 2018	<b>19 March</b>
<b>Capacity building workshop for the Chairperson and Commissioners of the Office on Missing Persons</b>	A capacity building/ training workshop was held for the Chairperson and Commissioners of the Office on Missing Persons with the support and participation of ICRC, the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, the Senior Adviser on Human Rights in Sri Lanka from the OHCHR, Office of National Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR), the Ministry of Home Affairs (responsible for Certificates of Absence), the Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation and the Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms	<b>17-18 March</b>
<b>Action taken regarding forms of alleged illegal surveillance and harassment</b>	The Ministry of Law & Order, in a media release issued in Sinhala, Tamil and English, announced platforms available to the public to lodge complaints regarding any forms of illegal surveillance and harassment, which includes the National Police Commission (1960-hotline, 0115107722); Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (1996-hotline, 0112505575); Special Investigations Unit of the Sri Lanka Police (119-hotline), and Tell IGP online complaints portal ( <a href="http://www.telligp.police.lk">http://www.telligp.police.lk</a> ) <a href="http://www.lawandorder.lk/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=category&amp;layout=blog&amp;id=83&amp;Itemid=496&amp;lang=en">http://www.lawandorder.lk/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=category&amp;layout=blog&amp;id=83&amp;Itemid=496&amp;lang=en</a>	<b>16 March</b>
<b>Follow-up on Implementation of Resolution 30/1</b>	The Committee of Officials chaired by the Secretary to the Prime Minister was convened to follow-up on the implementation of Resolution 30/1. Key decisions included the following: -As a measure to address issues pertaining to complaints regarding illegal surveillance and harassment, it was decided that the Ministry of Law & Order take steps to inform the public regarding platforms available to them to make complaints formally including details of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRC SL).	<b>14 March</b>
<b>Received the UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs</b>	Continuing the constructive engagement with the UN that began in January 2015, the Government received the UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Mr. Jeffrey Feltman on a visit to the country to discuss cooperation on a range of issues including reconciliation and peacebuilding. USG's meetings included the President, Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition, and Muslim Ministers and MPs.	<b>9-11 March</b>
<b>Giving effect to the provisions of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance</b>	Legislation to give effect locally, to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from <b>Enforced Disappearance</b> was enacted by the passage of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance Bill in the Sri Lanka Parliament, criminalizing enforced disappearance.	<b>07 March</b>
<b>Office for Reparations</b>	The Cabinet of Ministers approved the formulation of legislation by the Legal Draftsman, for the	<b>06</b>

	establishment by law of an <b>Office for Reparations</b> . Once the draft legislation with translations into local languages is finalised, the draft Bill is expected to be gazetted shortly.	<b>March</b>
<b>Received the Special Envoy on the Mine Ban Convention/ Ottawa Convention</b>	Received the Special Envoy on the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction, HRH Prince Mired Bin Raad Al-Hussein	<b>04-07 March</b>
<b>Accession to the Cluster Munitions Convention (Oslo Convention)</b>	Sri Lanka acceded to the Cluster Munitions Convention by depositing the Instrument of Accession at the UN Headquarters through Sri Lanka's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York	<b>01 March</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 2018</b>		
<b>Appointment of Commissioners: Office on Missing Persons (OMP)</b>	-The President met the Chairperson and Commissioners of the Office on Missing Persons nominated by the Constitutional Council and handed over letters of appointment. The President assured the Commissioners of the Government's fullest support to the Commissioners in carrying out their functions.	<b>28 February</b>
<b>Accession to the Cluster Munitions Convention (Oslo Convention)</b>	The Cabinet of Ministers, at its meeting on 27 February 2018, approved Sri Lanka's accession to the Cluster Munitions Convention (Oslo Convention)	<b>27 February</b>
<b>International Conference on Reparations</b>	SCRM, in partnership with the IOM, Australian Aid and the UN Peacebuilding Fund, organised an International Conference on Reparations in Colombo which facilitated consultations on key areas relating to reparations policy, process, remedies and services, and gender. The conference also enabled the discussion of case studies useful for preparation of reparations legislation in Sri Lanka. This included the participation of civil society.	<b>22-23 February</b>
<b>Consultation on Land Restitution</b>	SCRM organised a Consultation on Land Restitution in Colombo, with participation of all key local stakeholders (Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Resettlement, Ministry of Land Reforms, Forest Department, Rehabilitation of Persons Properties and Industries Authority, Consultation Task Force, Commander Security Forces – Jaffna, Commander Security Forces – East) and representation from World Bank, IOM, and international experts	<b>20 February</b>
<b>Taking forward the programme for creating awareness among the Security Forces on Transitional Justice (Military Dialogue)</b>	'Dealing with the past - training of trainers for the defence sector', planned in January, for February-March 2018, was launched	<b>16 February</b>
<b>Increasing women's representation in politics:</b>	<b><i>Local Government Elections held island-wide for the first time in one day, according to the amended Local Authorities Election Act that provides for 25% quota for women:</i></b> Amendments were introduced to the Local Authorities Election Act and the Provincial Councils Election Act, ensuring a quota to elect female representatives to the Local Government and Provincial Councils which are	<b>10 February</b>

	important grass-root-level decision making bodies. The 10 February 2018 Local Authorities Election was hailed as one of the most peaceful. The legislation ensuring 25% quota for women was implemented, securing a record number of women being elected.	
<b>JANUARY 2018</b>		
<b>Land release: Committee convened under the Chairmanship of the Secretary to the President</b>	<p>-As requested by the Committee of Officials set up the Cabinet of Ministers to follow-up on implementation of Resolution 30/1, the Secretary to the President convened a meeting of all relevant stakeholders to take stock of the status pertaining to the release of land, and related issues. Participants at this meeting included the Secretaries to the ministries of Defence, Resettlement, Foreign Affairs, SG/SCRM, the Government Agents of the relevant districts, and the Commanders of the tri-forces.</p> <p>-The decisions taken included allocation of funds to the Army to relocate facilities so that the release of private land could be expedited; and for this Committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary to the President to function as a mechanism that meets regularly to oversee and address land release and related issues.</p>	<b>25 January</b>
<b>Follow-up on Implementation of Resolution 30/1</b>	<p>The Committee of Officials chaired by the Secretary to the Prime Minister was convened to follow-up on the implementation of Resolution 30/1. Key decisions included the following:</p> <p>-To request the Secretary to the President to convene a meeting of all stakeholders on issues related to the release of land and for such meetings to be held regularly to ensure timely implementation and also address related problems that may be faced at different levels and find solutions/ provide direction.</p>	<b>16 January</b>
<b>Participated in periodic review by the Committee on the Rights of the Child</b>	Sri Lanka participated in the periodic review on its implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) by the Committee on the Rights of the Child	<b>15 January</b>
<b>Observed Reconciliation Week</b>	Observed National Reconciliation week from 8-14 January 2018	<b>08-14 January</b>
<b>Follow-up on implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan</b>	<p>Monitoring Mechanism on the implementation of the NHRAP chaired by the Hon. Minister of Law &amp; Order was convened on 4<sup>th</sup> January</p> <p><u>Key decisions included:</u></p> <p><i>-Setting up an officials committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary to the Prime Minister to meet monthly with all 10 Cluster heads for follow-up (Civil and Political Rights – Ministry of Justice; Torture – Ministry of Law &amp; Order; Women – Ministry of Women’s Affairs; IDPs – Ministry of Resettlement; Rights of Children – Ministry of Women and Child Affairs; Persons with Disabilities – Social Empowerment and Welfare); Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka which is a part of the Committee to invite 3 representatives from civil society to be a part of the Committee; HRCSL to nominate a civil society representative to each cluster.</i></p>	<b>04 January</b>

<b>Taking forward the programme for creating awareness among the Security Forces on Transitional Justice (Military Dialogue)</b>	<p>Taking forward the programme for creating awareness among the security forces and police on transitional justice, and the reconciliation and TJ process in Sri Lanka, 25 members of the tri-forces and police attended a week-long foundational course on TJ titled 'Dealing with the Past' with assistance from the Swiss Government.</p> <p>These 25 personnel will be trained further to function as trainers and facilitators on transitional justice and reconciliation for the rank and file of the security forces and the police. A further training programme for these 25 personnel titled 'Dealing with the past - training of trainers' for the defence sector' was designed for implementation in February-March 2018.</p>	<b>January</b>
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**Programmes carried out by the Office of National Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR) during 2017**

- ***Training of Public Sector Officials on Reconciliation in collaboration with SLIDA***
- ***Education for Social Cohesion: Integrated policy at National and Provincial levels to mainstream reconciliation and national unity through general education***
  - Established a Peace Education and Reconciliation Unit at the Ministry of Education
  - Conducted Media Briefing on Peace Education and Reconciliation Unit
  - Conducted 6 Sahodara Pasal/Sahodara Padasalai programmes (Total of 900 students, 150 Trainee teachers, 200 Teachers, 80 Facilitators were trained on social cohesion and reconciliation)
  - Conducted a Student Leadership Conference for National Unity at BMICH for 256 students from all 25 Districts, 25 Teachers/Education Officials.
  - Conducted 02 Sensitization Workshops in Sabaragamuwa and North Western Provinces each workshop.
- ***Conflict Transformation Programme (Interfaith dialogue): Promoted interfaith dialogues, inter-ethnic & intercultural dialogues to Promote National unity and Reconciliation through Conflict Transformation***
  - University Reconciliation Programme- Conducted 04 Workshops (participants 72) & launched 2 events (participants 600 )
  - Discussion forums (07) in each university completed
  - Press conference held
  - MoU signed with University Grants Commission to introduce Reconciliation as subject in University curriculum in University of Ruhuna, University of Jaffna, South Eastern University, Swami Vipulananda Institute of Eastern University, Visual and Performing Arts University, Sri Lanka Bhikku University-Anuradhapura and Jamaih Naleemiah Islamic Institute.
- ***Psychosocial support: facilitated to provide urgent psycho-social services to the conflict affected communities through establishing a Task Force to coordinating the provision of immediate psycho-social assistance is the main duty of the task force***
  - Training of Trainers (ToT) in Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing
  - Signed the MOU between, ONUR, Shanthiham (the Implementing partner) and District Secretariat (monitoring Partner) on 5 July 2017
  - Training of Selected Candidates commenced on the 24th of July, with an official Inauguration on 1st August 2017)

-Weeks of theoretical training followed by 4 weeks of Practical-Field training, and again 1 week of theoretical training have been completed by end September 2017

-Psycho Trauma Resource Center -Have Called for Proposals for Renovation work of the identified Centers.

○ **Arts & Culture for Reconciliation and Multi Religious Festivals: Promoted reconciliation process through arts and multi- cultural initiatives**

-Thai Pongal 2017: 113 programmes completed. (556 schools covered, 54,506 students participated, 8 Provinces covered)

-Sinhala and Tamil New Year 2017:108 Programmes completed.(1282 schools covered, 55,180 students participated, 9 Provinces covered)

-Poson 2017: 66 Programmes completed (310 schools covered, 36,426 students participated, 6 Provinces covered)

-Ramadan: Completed 86 Programmes. (479 schools covered; 41,490 student's participated, 9 Provinces covered)

-Christmas: Completed 16 Programmes. (6 Provinces covered (Western, North-western, Central, North-central, Southern, Uva)

-Selected provincial and all island winners of Art competition & organizing the award ceremony

-Created ONUR film ready for Screening; ONUR Radio Drama production completed; Janakaraliya Mobile Theatre production completed, Public shows will be started from 2018; Agreement signed for Sinhala Stage Play

-Youth CREATE II - Bezos Foundation reviewing draft MOU. Conducted 3 days residential training programme done for Cultural affairs Officers

○ **Awareness and Outreach: used communication strategies and public engagements to promote National Unity and Reconciliation with line ministries and agencies and the public**

-HOPE Photo Exhibition consisting of photographs by the citizens of Sri Lanka on what reconciliation means to them was moved to the Vihara Maha Devi Public Park for public engagement; some of the photographs were taken to the UN Headquarters for display at an informal briefing by Sri Lanka for the UN Peacebuilding Commission in November 2017

-Follow up meetings and discussion with Business Community Representatives on reconciliation

-In partnership with the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (state television), the International Children's Broadcasting Day Festival was celebrated with "Sahodarathwaye Siththama" truck going to schools across the country

-Celebrity messages & ONUR work clips being displayed at selected Railway Stations, Bus Stands, and Health Institutions & Supermarkets on Digital Display boards

-ONUR Newsletter Design and Printing - \* Discussion held with Mahadanamutta and Goalayo puppet show makers & Sri Lanka Development Journalists Association on Public Outreach / Awareness on Sri Lankan Shared Values

-Press Conference organized on National Reconciliation Policy launch, uploaded documents for public access and disseminated

-Vehicle Stickers and Booklets for Corporate & Young Adults on Sri Lankan Shared Values finalized artwork and to be sent for printing

-Used Testimonials of famous Sri Lankan cricketer Kumar Sangakkara & others, and Printed Stickers on Sri Lankan Shared Values for awareness raising, with PERU of Education Ministry at the Thirasara Lanka National Exhibition at BMICH in April

○ **Women for reconciliation: planned projects carried out to ensure social security for conflict affected women**

-500 Commercial Home Gardening programmes have been completed.

-Livelihood support for 50 ex-combatants in Palay DSD in Kilinochchi District has completed.

-Agricultural Inputs provided to 700 ex combatants in Kilinochchi & Mullaitivu districts has completed.

-Loan and grant programme for people in Kilinochchi district is in progress

○ **Economic Engagement Programme in North & Eastern Province under the Comprehensive District Development Plan (DDP) Programme (RWH (Rain Water Harvesting Programme)/ Drip Irrigation / Village Infrastructure Development) Monitoring**

-Completed 421 RWHUs in Kilinochchi and Jaffna Districts.  
 -Technology transfer on Precision Farming Technology (PFT): Established 2 PFT farms and Trained 347 farmers and extension officers 73. (1st Phase completed.)  
 -Improve income generation activities of 1785 Micro level entrepreneurs of 113 villages in North and East provinces: MoU signed with SANASA. SANASA has been disbursed self employment loans to 159 beneficiaries in Vavuniya 0.91 Rs.Mn (20 persons) , Mannar 1.49 Rs.Mn (22 persons), Killinochchi 3.14 Rs.Mn (49 persons), Mullathivu 4.28 Rs.Mn ( 68 persons) from each district . Total grant disbursed to SANASA from ONUR .9.83.Rs.Mn  
 -Development of Village Infrastructure. (450 sub projects including Livelihood Dev., Rural Irrigation, Community Water, Health & Education Infrastructure Dev.: Approved 494 infrastructure development project in 8 districts and both provinces of North & East . Out of 494 projects 450 completed.

o **Handbook on Cultural and Religious Festivals: Issued handbook on conduction of multi-cultural and multi ethnic festivals**

-Sinhala version completed, translation work completed final print to be done on January 2018

o **Regional Reconciliation initiatives- "Heal the Past: Build the Future":**

Conducted awareness programme on reconciliation in three districts over different networks of grassroots: Regional Reconciliation Programme -22 Workshops (participant 1776 ) conducted

**DECEMBER 2017**

<b>LAND RELEASE data for 2017</b>	4,300 acres of state land and 839.77 acres of private land was vacated by the security forces during the period 01 January – 15 December 2017	<b>01 January 2017 – 15 December 2017 (All of 2017)</b>
<b>Correctional Facilities and Architects</b>	Sri Lanka will host the 7 <sup>th</sup> Asian Conference on Correctional Facilities and Architects in Colombo, from 12-16 March 2018, in collaboration with ICRC. The Conference, in line with Government Policy of the need for correctional facilities to be in line with international standards, will facilitate the sharing of knowledge and expertise in best practices in designing, panning, operating and maintaining correctional facilities.	<b>December</b>
<b>Follow-up on implementation of Resolution 30/1</b>	The Committee of Officials chaired by the Secretary to the Prime Minister was convened to follow-up on the implementation of Resolution 30/1 and it was decided that the Committee would meet on a monthly/ regular basis hereafter to track progress in this regard and take necessary decisions	<b>14 December</b>
<b>Accession to the Mine Ban Convention/ Ottawa Convention</b>	The Instrument of Accession to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction was deposited with the United Nations Secretariat on 13 December 2017 and will enter into force for Sri Lanka on 1 June 2018	<b>13 December</b>
<b>Mine Ban Convention/ Ottawa Convention: approval of the Cabinet of Ministers</b>	The Cabinet of Ministers approved Sri Lanka's accession to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction	<b>12 December</b>

<b>Accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture</b>	The Instrument of Accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture was deposited with the United Nations Headquarters on 05 December 2017 and will enter into force for Sri Lanka on 4 January 2018	<b>05 December</b>
<b>Received the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention</b>	The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention undertook an official visit at the invitation of the Government, from 04-15 December.	<b>04-15 December</b>
<b>NOVEMBER 2017</b>		
<b>Third Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Sri Lanka</b>	<p>Sri Lanka's 3<sup>rd</sup> UPR was held from 15-17 November. Of the 230 recommendations made to Sri Lanka, 177 were accepted; 53 were noted; and Sri Lanka made 12 voluntary pledges.</p> <p><i>Statements:</i> Opening: <a href="http://www.mfa.gov.lk/index.php/en/media/statements/7257-statement-by-hon-dr-harsha-de-silva-deputy-minister-of-national-policies-and-economic-affairs-at-the-third-cycle-of-the-universal-periodic-review-of-sri-lanka-geneva-15-november-2017">http://www.mfa.gov.lk/index.php/en/media/statements/7257-statement-by-hon-dr-harsha-de-silva-deputy-minister-of-national-policies-and-economic-affairs-at-the-third-cycle-of-the-universal-periodic-review-of-sri-lanka-geneva-15-november-2017</a></p> <p>At Adoption of Working Group Report: <a href="http://www.mfa.gov.lk/index.php/en/component/content/article/1-latest-news/7260-remarks-by-hon-dr-harsha-de-silva-mp-deputy-minister-of-national-policies-and-economic-affairs-at-the-adoption-of-the-working-group-report-of-the-3rd-cycle-of-the-universal-periodic-review-of-sri-lanka-geneva-17-november-2017-">http://www.mfa.gov.lk/index.php/en/component/content/article/1-latest-news/7260-remarks-by-hon-dr-harsha-de-silva-mp-deputy-minister-of-national-policies-and-economic-affairs-at-the-adoption-of-the-working-group-report-of-the-3rd-cycle-of-the-universal-periodic-review-of-sri-lanka-geneva-17-november-2017-</a></p>	<b>15-17 November</b>
<b>Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture</b>	The Cabinet of Ministers approved Sri Lanka's accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the appointment of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) as the National Preventive Mechanism	<b>14 November</b>
<b>Endorsed the Vancouver Principles</b>	Sri Lanka endorsed the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers	<b>10 November</b>
<b>Amendment to the Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses</b>	An amendment to the Act to provide for the victims and witnesses of a crime to record evidence or a statement through audio-visual linkage, from anywhere outside Sri Lanka, without personally attending the Court, and to facilitate such process through Sri Lanka diplomatic Missions abroad, which was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers on 5 July, was passed in Parliament.	<b>07 November</b>
<b>A separate section on Reconciliation included in the</b>	For the very first time in Sri Lanka's history, <b>a section of the National Budget for 2018, is expressly dedicated to reconciliation.</b> Allocation for OMP for 2018 is Rs. 1.4 billion.	<b>07 November</b>



<b>National Budget for the very first time (budget for 2018)</b>	The Budget titled 'Blue-Green Budget. The Budget that was presented in Parliament on 7 November, is prepared based on the principles of the Sustainable Development Goals and is titled 'Blue-Green Budget: the Launch of Enterprise Sri Lanka'. It is intended to awaken the entrepreneurial spirit, enabling Sri Lanka to be a vibrant trading hub and encouraging <u>all</u> Sri Lankans to become co-owners of a country enriched.	
<b>Official launch of the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP)</b>	The National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) 2017 – 2021, which was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers, was officially launched in all three languages (Sinhala, Tamil, English), by the Prime Minister, at an event held in the premises of the Sri Lanka Parliament <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-ax1cltXnLTaWpZQI9IOGIsV3c/view">https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-ax1cltXnLTaWpZQI9IOGIsV3c/view</a> <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-ax1cltXnLTOUJtWHFJM2NaUm8/view">https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-ax1cltXnLTOUJtWHFJM2NaUm8/view</a> <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-ax1cltXnLTbTNyLWQ0TGfV0E/view">https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-ax1cltXnLTbTNyLWQ0TGfV0E/view</a>	<b>01 November</b>
<b>Co-sponsorship of Resolutions related to Human Rights at the 72<sup>nd</sup> UNGA</b>	Sri Lanka co-sponsored the Resolution titled ' <i>Twentieth anniversary and promotion of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms</i> '	<b>November</b>
<b>OCTOBER 2017</b>		
<b>Progress on Constitutional Reform</b>	The Interim Report of the Steering Committee which was tabled in Parliament on 21 September was debated in the Constitutional Assembly (whole of Parliament sitting as the Constitutional Assembly)	<b>30 October – 01 November</b>
<b>Construction of houses in 25 districts</b>	As per Cabinet approval granted on 22 August 2017, for the construction of houses in 25 districts for those below the poverty line, the Government of Sri Lanka entered into a MoU with the Government of India for the construction of 1200 houses through 50 model villages with Indian Government Grant assistance of Sri Lanka Rs. 600 million	<b>26 October</b>
<b>Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms (SCRM)</b>	The Cabinet of Ministers approved the extension of the term of the SCRM by two years up to 31 March 2019.	<b>24 October</b>
<b>National Action Plan to Combat Corruption in Sri Lanka</b>	Following the interactive seminar held on 4 July 2017 on 'clean and upright nation', a proposal was made to the Cabinet of Ministers by the Minister of Justice, to prepare an 'Action Plan to Combat Corruption in Sri Lanka' with the collaboration of the relevant agencies, to strengthen the anti-bribery and corruption agencies, to coordinate the entire institutional structure productively to promote national integration, to enhance the cooperation between the public and private sectors with regard to prevention of fraud, bribery and corruption, and raise awareness and public understanding of the adverse effects of bribery and corruption. This proposal was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.	<b>24 October</b>
<b>Received Mr Motoo Noguchi, Prosecutor of the Supreme</b>	Mr. Motoo Noguchi, Prosecutor of the Supreme Public Prosecutors Office of Japan undertook his third visit to the country, at the invitation of the Government, to work with Government , inter alia, to identify capacity building and training needs for reconciliation mechanisms	<b>23 October- 01 November</b>

<b>Public Prosecutors Office of Japan</b>		
<b>Received the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence</b>	The UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation, and guarantees of non-recurrence, Mr. Pablo de Greiff, who had visited Sri Lanka on 4 previous occasions in a technical-advisory capacity, undertook an official country visit, at the invitation of the Government	<b>10-23 October</b>
<b>Progress on the Office on Missing Persons (OMP)</b>	The Constitutional Council advertised, on 20 October 2017, in all three languages, calling for applications for the selection of Commissioners of the Office on Missing Persons. Advertisements placed on 20 October 2017; deadline for receipt of applications: 06 November 2017	<b>20 October</b>
<b>Land ownership and housing for plantation community</b>	The Cabinet of Ministers approved a proposal by the Minister of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and Community Development, to obtain plots of land on which housing schemes will be implemented for plantation communities released from regional plantation companies for the issue of title deeds. The plan envisaged involves the granting of title deeds for 2551 houses constructed under the green gold housing programme; 1134 houses of phase I of the houses constructed under the Indian Grant for families affected by disasters in 2017; and 75 houses of the Meeriyabedda Housing Project, implemented for those who lost houses due to disasters in 2015.	<b>17 October</b>
<b>Amendment to the Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Law No.1 of 1975</b>	The Cabinet of Ministers approved a proposal made by the Minister of Justice to instruct the Legal Draftsman to draft amending legislation for the purpose of amending the existing law to increase the fine up to Rs. 100,000/- for persons failing to make a declaration on his/her assets and liabilities which he/she is required to make, or makes false information available in such declaration and fails to give additional information when necessary, and a person is found guilty and is liable to a fine.	<b>10 October</b>
<b>National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP): mechanism to monitor implementation</b>	The Cabinet of Ministers took note of the National Human Rights Action Plan that had been approved by the Cabinet of Ministers on 17 January 2017, the convening of an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, to review progress on its implementation, and the convening of the Officials' Committed under the direction of the Minister of Law & Order to ensure timely progress on the implementation of the NHRAP and to report thereon to the Inter-Ministerial Committee chaired by the Prime Minister	<b>03 October</b>
<b>Construction of 50,000 permanent Brick and Mortar type houses for conflict affected Displaced families in the Northern an East Provinces</b>	The Ministry of National Integration and reconciliation published request for proposals for financing and construction of 50,000 permanent Brick and Mortar type houses for conflict affected Displaced families in the Northern an East Provinces <a href="http://www.scrm.gov.lk/copy-of-documents-reports">http://www.scrm.gov.lk/copy-of-documents-reports</a>	<b>02 October</b>

**SEPTEMBER 2017**

<b>Meeting with the UN Secretary-General</b>	H.E. the President met the UN Secretary-General Mr António Guterres at the United Nations in New York. Discussions focused on reconciliation, development, climate change, and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda	<b>23 September</b>
<b>Meeting with the High Commissioner for Human Rights</b>	H.E. the President met the High Commissioner for Human Rights in New York on 22 September 2017 and reiterated commitment to the reconciliation process and implementation of resolution 30/1	<b>22 September</b>
<b>Progress on Constitutional Reform</b>	Draft Interim Report of the Steering Committee was tabled by the Chairman of the Committee, the Hon. Prime Minister, in the Constitutional Assembly on 21 September. The Report includes observations and comments sent by members of the Steering Committee with regard to the updated draft Interim Report by 31 August 2017. The translations of political party representations into Sinhala, Tamil and English as necessary in the Interim Reports have been done by the Parliamentary Interpreter's Office and approved by the respective Member/s who submitted the same.  <a href="http://english.constitutionalassembly.lk/images/pdf/interim-report/ReportE%20CRR.pdf">http://english.constitutionalassembly.lk/images/pdf/interim-report/ReportE%20CRR.pdf</a> <a href="http://sinhala.constitutionalassembly.lk/images/pdf/interim-report/ReportS_CRR.pdf">http://sinhala.constitutionalassembly.lk/images/pdf/interim-report/ReportS_CRR.pdf</a> <a href="http://tamil.constitutionalassembly.lk/images/pdf/interim-report/ReportT_CRR.pdf">http://tamil.constitutionalassembly.lk/images/pdf/interim-report/ReportT_CRR.pdf</a>	<b>21 September</b>
<b>Passage of the Provincial Councils Elections (amendment) Bill</b>	Passage of the Provincial Councils Elections (amendment) Bill which will transform the electoral system, making elected members more accountable to the public.	<b>20 September</b>
<b>Sri Lanka joined several UN Member States in signing a Compact to eliminate sexual exploitation and abuse</b>	Sri Lanka joined an initiative of the UN Secretary-General, signing a Compact to eliminate sexual exploitation and abuse in UN including UN peacekeeping missions. Demonstrating firm commitment, Sri Lanka also joined the Secretary-General's "Circle of Leadership on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in UN operations" (the Circle of Leadership comprises of Heads of State and Government committed to end impunity and strengthen measures to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation in international deployments), and contributed to the Secretary-General's Trust Fund for victims.	<b>18 September</b>
<b>Draft Bill on Sign Language</b>	Recognizing that the hearing impaired living in Sri Lanka are approximately 389,677 persons, the Cabinet of Ministers approved a proposal by the Minister of Social Empowerment, Welfare and Kandyan Heritage, for the drafting of a Bill on Sign Language, with the objective of making legal provision to establish the Sign Language as a recognized language in the country.	<b>12 September</b>
<b>The date of operationalization of the Office on Missing Persons was gazetted</b>	The date of operationalization of the Office on Missing Persons was gazetted <a href="http://www.documents.gov.lk/files/egz/2017/9/2036-21_E.pdf">http://www.documents.gov.lk/files/egz/2017/9/2036-21_E.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.documents.gov.lk/files/egz/2017/9/2036-21_S.pdf">http://www.documents.gov.lk/files/egz/2017/9/2036-21_S.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.documents.gov.lk/files/egz/2017/9/2036-21_T.pdf">http://www.documents.gov.lk/files/egz/2017/9/2036-21_T.pdf</a>	<b>11 September</b>

	The Office becomes operational from <b>15 September 2017</b>	
<b>Landmark verdict by Colombo High Court</b>	The Secretary to the former President and the former Chairman of the Telecommunication Regulatory Commission were sentenced to three years in prison by the Colombo High Court and ordered to pay Rs. 2 million each as a fine and Rs. 50 million each as compensation for misappropriating Rs. 620 million in Government funds in distributing white textile material used by Buddhist devotees, during the 2015 Presidential election, as a part of the election campaign.	<b>07 September</b>
<b>Inland Revenue Act passed in Parliament</b>	A new Inland Revenue law which removes exemptions and is aimed at reducing indirect taxes was passed in Parliament. Another step aimed at good governance.	<b>07 September</b>
<b>Dialogue with the Military and Police on Reconciliation</b>	Continuing the series of dialogues with the military and police that started in 2016, a further dialogue was held engaging approximately 70 high-ranking officers in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Police, related to transitional justice and reconciliation, in Katunayake.	<b>06-07 September</b>
<b>Launched a peace video/ song and a communication campaign on the theme of “Listen! – Development begins with Reconciliation”</b>	Launched a ‘Peace Video/ Song’ on the theme of “LISTEN – Development begins with Reconciliation” emphasizing the importance of listening to the other, and the importance of reconciliation, which is essential for achieving peaceful, stable, and prosperous Sri Lanka.	<b>04 September</b>
<b>Launched Government’s Economic Policy with special emphasis on good governance, reconciliation and human rights</b>	-The <b>Government’s Economic Policy – “Vision 2025 – A Country Enriched”</b> was launched at an event graced by the President and the Prime Minister, on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the National Unity Government. -The Vision 2025 policy lays special emphasis on governance and accountability; strengthening ongoing reconciliation efforts to ensure the rights of all citizens which will enable everyone to feel Sri Lankan; upholding and strengthening the citizens’ Right to Information; social safety nets; sustainable development; and enhancing economic and social rights.	<b>04 September</b>
<b>AUGUST 2017</b>		
<b>Construction of houses in 25 districts</b>	The Cabinet of Ministers approved a proposal from the Minister of Housing and Construction to enter into a MoU with the Government of India to obtain a sum of Rs. 300 million granted by the Government of India, and to implement a project for the construction of 600 houses targeting the families below the poverty line covering all 25 districts of the country under the ‘Semata Sevana Grama Shakthi Model Village Project’	<b>22 August</b>
<b>Invited technical experts from Colombia to share their experiences of the</b>	Invited the former Director of Transitional Justice of the Ministry of Justice and Law, and the Chief of the Legal Counsel Services of the Army of <b>Colombia</b> , to visit Sri Lanka. A two-day workshop was organized for the officials of the relevant local ministries and civil society to listen to and share experiences. An interactive session with the Colombian technical experts was organized for some of the Parliamentarians	<b>21-24 August</b>

<b>Reconciliation/ Transitional Justice process in Colombia</b>	as well. It is the intention of the Government to continue this dialogue and exchange of experiences and ideas with experts from Colombia as well as other countries in the world which have transitional justice processes.	
<b>Resignation of a Cabinet Minister in keeping with good governance norms and practices</b>	In keeping with good governance norms and practices, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Ravi Karunanayake resigned from his ministerial portfolio to allow for the ongoing proceedings of the Presidential Commission of Enquiry to Investigate and Report on the Central Bank Bond Issue	<b>10 August</b>
<b>Action against bribery</b>	A former local government member (Chairman of the Rambewa Pradeshiya Sabha) was sentenced to 5 years in prison and a fine of Rs 40,000 for soliciting and accepting a bribe over a youth who was seeking employment overseas. This is an indicator of the shift that has taken place in strengthening good governance practices and efforts of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (COABOC) bearing results.  On 16 August, another former Pradeshiya Sabha (Local Government) member from Tangalle was arrested for accepting a bribe.	<b>03 August</b>
<b>Think-Equal: pre-school education programme</b>	The Cabinet of Ministers granted approval for a joint proposal made by the Minister of Education and the Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government, to introduce into the curricula of all pre-schools in the country, from January 2018, a programme aimed at enhancing life skills of children, with a view to creating a future generation endowed with social values which would enable them to embrace diversity of nationality, race, religion, and gender.	<b>01 August</b>
<b>JULY 2017</b>		
<b>New Foreign Exchange Control Act</b>	In keeping with good governance, a new Foreign Exchange Control Act was passed in Parliament.	<b>25 July</b>
<b>National Guidelines for Child Day Care Centres in the country</b>	The Cabinet of Ministers approved the 'National Guidelines for Child Day Care Centres in Sri Lanka' formulated with the views of all stakeholders and experts, submitted by the Minister of Women and Child Affairs, for implementation subject to an Action Plan under the supervision of the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs and the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs	<b>25 July</b>
<b>Received the UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs</b>	Received the UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Mr. Jeffrey Feltman	<b>19-22 July</b>
<b>Office on Missing Persons</b>	As per the Act establishing the Office on Missing Persons, the President assigned the subject by gazette notification, to the Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation	<b>19 July</b>

<p><b>Ten Year National Health Policy</b></p>	<p>As the existing National Health Policy is one that had been prepared in 1996, the Cabinet of Ministers approved a New National Health Policy for ten years from 2016-2025. This Policy had been prepared over a period of three years (2014-2016), taking into consideration the concept of 'Universal Health Coverage', ensuring the rights of patients and social justice. The following major policy directions are identified in the Policy:</p> <p>-strengthening of service delivery for achieving the goals of preventive health; provision of an appropriate and accessible high quality curative care for all citizens of Sri Lanka; promotion of equitable access to qualitative rehabilitation care; establishment of a planned methodology based on the service supply data to strengthen the methodologies of uninterrupted service supplies; development of new strategies to minimize out of pocket spending for patients and to reduce financial risk; ensure a comprehensive health system through better restructuring including human resource management; development of strategic partnership with all health care providers.</p>	<p><b>18 July</b></p>
<p><b>Visits by UN Special Procedures</b></p>	<p>Received the UN Special Rapporteur on Countering Terrorism while Promoting and Protecting Human Rights, Mr. Ben Emmerson</p>	<p><b>09-15 July</b></p>
<p><b>Title deeds for houses constructed under the Estate Housing Projects</b></p>	<p>The Cabinet of Ministers approved the granting of title deeds for estate houses constructed and handed over under the 'New Life Housing Programme' and the 'Green Gold Housing Programme' implemented from 2010-2016.</p> <p>1122 houses have been constructed under the New Life Housing Programme, and 1742 houses have been constructed under the Green Gold Housing Programme since 2010 up to 2016 for the plantation sector community. Initial steps have also been taken already to construct a further 2000 houses under the Green Gold Housing Programme, and 1134 houses under the Indian Grant Housing Programme. The Cabinet of Ministers has approved granting a land in extent of 7 perches for the construction of houses with more facilities with a view to enhancing the living standard of the community.</p>	<p><b>11 July</b></p>
<p><b>Committee established by the Cabinet under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister</b></p>	<p>The first meeting of the Committee under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister for the implementation of Resolution 30/1</p>	<p><b>06 July</b></p>
<p><b>Interactive seminar on clean and upright nation</b></p>	<p>-The Commission to Investigate Allegations on Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC) organized a one-day seminar on 'clean and upright nation' at Hilton Colombo Residencies at which most government agencies, civil society representatives, professional organisations and the private sector participated, along with the National Police Commission, the Human Rights Commission, National Audit Commission, National Procurements Commission etc.</p> <p>-The focus was on creating a culture of prevention and integrity, while focusing on the importance of adopting a <b>National Action Plan on Anti-corruption</b>.</p>	<p><b>04 July</b></p>
		<p><b>04</b></p>

<b>Establishment of a Tamil Medium Secondary School</b>	The Cabinet of Ministers, based on a joint proposal submitted by the Minister of National Co-existence, Dialogue and Official Languages and the Minister of Ports and Shipping, approved a proposal to establish a Tamil Medium Secondary School in close proximity to Matugama town, and to allocate 5 acres of land for this purpose from the Matugama Estate, managed by the Namunukula Estate Company, as students who follow classes in Advanced Level Science and Maths subjects have to otherwise travel very far to study these subjects.	<b>July</b>
<b>Land release</b>	Myladi harbour and 54 acres of land released	<b>03 July</b>
<b>JUNE 2017</b>		
<b>Amendment to the Office on Missing Persons Act</b>	The Amendment proposed to the Office on Missing Persons Act was passed in Parliament without a vote	<b>21 June</b>
<b>Effective monitoring of Implementation of resolution 30/1</b>	Committee under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister established by Cabinet for effective monitoring of the implementation of resolution 30/1	<b>20 June</b>
<b>Examination of Sri Lanka's periodic report by the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights</b>	Sri Lanka's periodic report was examined by the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights	<b>08 June</b>
<b>MAY 2017</b>		
<b>Issuance of Certificates of Absence (CoA)</b>	The Register General Department has been implementing the issuance of Certificates of Absence (COAs). Since 21 November 2016, 429 applications were received and 224 certificates issued as at 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2017. It was observed that better outreach and communications helped increase access to the COAs in recent months.	<b>15 May</b>
<b>National Policy on Reconciliation and Co-existence</b>	The Cabinet of Ministers approved the National Policy on Reconciliation and Co-existence which will serve as a guiding framework to ensure non-recurrence of conflict	<b>02 May</b>
<b>APRIL 2017</b>		
<b>Counter-Terrorism Act approved by Cabinet</b>		<b>25 April</b>

	A Counter-Terrorism Act (CTA) was approved by Cabinet. The CTA will replace the anachronistic and strongly criticized Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA). This is one of the confidence building measures specifically mentioned in UNHRC Resolution 30/1	
<b>Land Release data in the North and East of Sri Lanka</b>	Total land released from 31 January 2017 to end-April 2017: state land – 196.65 acres; private land – 88.44 acres  Total land released from May 2009 (end of conflict) to end-April 2017: state land – 54, 734.52 acres; private land – 24, 371.05 acres	<b>As at end-April</b>
<b>MARCH 2017</b>		
<b>Co-sponsored Resolution 34/1</b>	Reiterating Sri Lanka's commitment to take continued local ownership of processes aimed at advancing reconciliation, accountability and human rights, Sri Lanka co-sponsored Resolution 34/1 titled ' <i>Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka</i> ', extending the timeline of Resolution 30/1 by two years.	<b>23 March</b>
<b>Working Group on Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights under the EU-Sri Lanka Joint Commission</b>	Demonstrating the Government's continued commitment to engagement and dialogue, the second meeting of the Working Group on Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights under the European Union – Sri Lanka Joint Commission was held in Colombo	<b>13-14 March</b>
<b>Joint Statement on the Power of Inclusion and the Benefits of Diversity in the UN Human Rights Council</b>	Sri Lanka co-sponsored the Joint Statement on the 'Power of Inclusion and the Benefits of Diversity' at the 34 <sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council, stressing the importance of inclusion – inclusive economic growth, inclusive social policies and services, inter-cultural and inter-fait dialogue, inclusive approaches to the arts and sports, designing and implementation of inclusive legislation and policies which support human rights for all without discrimination; and the importance of inclusion to the realization of the 3 pillars of the UN – international peace and security, respect for human rights, and the 2030 sustainable development goals and commitment to 'leave no one behind'.	<b>March</b>
<b>Joint Statement on Enforced Disappearances in the UN Human Rights Council</b>	Sri Lanka joined the cross-regional group of 42 countries issuing a Joint Statement (delivered by France) on Enforced Disappearances at the 34 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council, urging all member States to accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	<b>March</b>
<b>International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance</b>	The Bill to give effect to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; to ensure the right to Justice and Reparation to Victims of Enforced Disappearance; and to provide for matters connected therewith, on incidental thereto, <b>entered in the Order Paper of Parliament</b> <a href="http://www.parliament.lk/uploads/documents/orderpapers/1488537497034218.pdf">http://www.parliament.lk/uploads/documents/orderpapers/1488537497034218.pdf</a>	<b>07 March</b>



<b>Land release</b>	The Air Force released 42 acres of private land to the Mullaitivu GA, ending the protests staged by people in front of the Air Force Base since January 2017.	<b>01 March</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 2017</b>		
<b>Cabinet of Ministers approves compensation payments to those affected by Incidents in Welikada Prison on 9 November 2012</b>	Compensation payments proposed by the Minister of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs, as per the Commission appointed to investigate into the incidents, approved by Cabinet. Compensation payments approved for 16 prisoners who passed away (Rs. 2,000,000.00 each); and 20 injured (Rs. 500,000.00 each)	<b>28 February</b>
<b>Examination of Sri Lanka's Report to CEDAW</b>	Sri Lanka's 8 <sup>th</sup> Periodic Report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women examined by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)	<b>22 February</b>
<b>Legislation to give effect to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance</b>	The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance Bill was published in the Government Gazette  <i>English: <a href="http://documents.gov.lk/files/bill/2017/2/01-2017_E.pdf">http://documents.gov.lk/files/bill/2017/2/01-2017_E.pdf</a> Sinhala: <a href="http://documents.gov.lk/files/bill/2017/2/01-2017_S.pdf">http://documents.gov.lk/files/bill/2017/2/01-2017_S.pdf</a> Tamil: <a href="http://documents.gov.lk/files/bill/2017/2/01-2017_T.pdf">http://documents.gov.lk/files/bill/2017/2/01-2017_T.pdf</a></i>	<b>09 February</b>
<b>Legislation to give effect to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance</b>	The Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to: -publish the 'International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance Bill' in the Government Gazette; and -to present the said Bill in Parliament, for approval	<b>07 February</b>
<b>Commemorative Stamp on NIR</b>	A commemorative stamp and first day cover were issued to mark the National Integration and Reconciliation Week with the participation of the President during the Religious Schools Programme held at BMICH with the participation of approximately 500 religious school teachers representing all four major religions in the country	<b>03 February</b>
<b>Religious Schools Programme</b>	President Sirisena participated as Chief Guest of the Programme as Minister of National Integration and Reconciliation to emphasize the importance of religious schools system and teachings towards forging national integration and reconciliation; approximately 500 religious school teachers from each of the 4 religions participated to discuss how to institutionalise NIR in their respective schools systems. Religious leaders too addressed the gathering, and at the end of the programme, each religious group expressed their commitment towards establishing NIR through the religious schools. Material on key messages on NIR to be taken back to the religious schools and students were distributed among the participants.	<b>03 February</b>
<b>JANUARY 2017</b>		

<b>Land released in January in the Northern and Eastern Provinces</b>	1,383.51 acres (state land); 30.54 acres (private land) released by the Army	<b>1-31 January</b>
<b>International workshop of experts on the participation and protection of children in reconciliation</b>	SCRM and UNICEF organized a 3 day activity with international and national experts on the participation of children in the 4 mechanisms to be established, and guarantees of non-repetition. The activity included an expert workshop, a public conference and a panel with the diplomatic corps in Sri Lanka.	<b>30-31 Jan and 1 Feb</b>
<b>Taking Consular Services to the Regions</b>	The first regional consular office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was opened in Jaffna. This enables more efficient service delivery and easier access to services for the people in the region who had to earlier travel to Colombo to obtain consular services	<b>26 January</b>
<b>Dialogue with the Military on Reconciliation</b>	Three dialogue sessions were held engaging approximately 120 high ranking officers of the Army, Navy and Air Force on the policies related to reconciliation: Colombo, Galle and Jaffna.	<b>18-26 January</b>
<b>The National Human Rights Action Plan</b>	The National Human Rights Action Plan (2017-2021) that was evolved through a wide consultative process by the inter-ministerial committee set up by Cabinet, was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers. It is to be published shortly.	<b>17 January</b>
<b>Access to suspects by Lawyers</b>	The draft law to provide access to suspects by legal counsel, to ensure the rights of a suspect arrested, was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers and the Legal Draftsman has been requested by the Cabinet to draft necessary legislation, and publish the draft in the Government Gazette and present in Parliament for approval.	<b>10 January</b>
<b>Policy and Legal Framework relating to the Counter Terrorism Act</b>	The Draft Policy and Legal Framework relating to the Counter Terrorism Act which was prepared by a Committee and subsequently submitted to the Parliamentary Oversight Committee by Cabinet, was <b>amended</b> to bring it in line with human rights norms and standards. The Cabinet of Ministers decided on 10 January 2017, to refer the Amended Policy and Legal Framework to the Parliamentary Oversight Committee on Legal Affairs, and approved the drafting of Legislation.	<b>10 January</b>
<b>National Integration and Reconciliation Week observed</b>	-A Pledge for National Integration and Reconciliation was taken by all Sri Lankans in public institutions, schools, and in Parliament.  The pledge in Sinhala, Tamil and English: <a href="http://mfa.gov.lk/index.php/en/media/media-releases/6745-nirw-17">http://mfa.gov.lk/index.php/en/media/media-releases/6745-nirw-17</a>  -All government schools island-wide were instructed through the respective Zonal Department of Education to declare the pledge on National Integration and Reconciliation during the week and to have student representatives speak on NIR at student assemblies and classrooms through the week. Following schools	<b>09 January</b>

	were selected for special awareness programmes: Royal (Colombo), Vivekananda (Colombo), Fathima Muslim Ladies' College (Colombo), Hartley (Jaffna), Vaddukodai Hindu College (Jaffna), Ananda (Colombo)	
<b>Launch of a Reconciliation TV Channel</b>	-MoU between the Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation and the National Rupavahini Corporation was signed. Rs 180 million has been allocated for this purpose in the 2017 Budget	<b>08 January</b>
<b>Launch of 'Corporate Sector as agents of change' programme</b>	ONUR (Office of National Unity and Reconciliation) began a programme of engaging with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) and the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Sri Lanka (FCCISL) to integrate reconciliation on a continuous basis in their events/ gatherings  A poster campaign on reconciliation where posters were placed at CCC and FCCISL was started.	<b>08-14 January</b>
<b>The Task Force appointed to carry out public consultations on Reconciliation Mechanisms handed over their Report to Government</b>	The Report of the Consultation Task Force was handed over to Former President and Chairperson of the Office of National Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR), Madam Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, who accepted the Report on behalf of President Maithripala Sirisena. Key recommendations are being considered in the design of the TJ mechanisms.  <a href="http://www.scrm.gov.lk/documents-reports">http://www.scrm.gov.lk/documents-reports</a>	<b>03 January</b>
<b>National Programme 'Lets Protect Children' 2017-2019</b>	A three-year National Programme titled 'Lets Protect Children' proposed by the President aimed at avoiding abuse, ensuring child protection, health, nutrition, and welfare and personality development, education and life skills, was approved by the Cabinet	<b>03 January</b>
<b>The Right to Information Act operationalized</b>	Announcement through Gazette Notification that the Right to Information Act will come into effect from 3 February 2017	<b>January</b>
<b>Budgetary allocation to the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka</b>	Allocation in 2017 budget for the National Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka – Rs. 19 million	<b>All of 2017</b>
<b>Housing for the Internally Displaced</b>	Allocation in 2017 Budget for 5,732 houses – Rs. 4,785 million; to the Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs	<b>All of 2017</b>
<b>Compensation allocated to the Rehabilitation of Persons, Property and Industries Authority (REPPIA)</b>	Budgetary Allocation for compensation payments for 2017 to REPPIA, under the Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs – Rs. 574,000,000.00	<b>All of 2017</b>
<b>DECEMBER 2016</b>		

<b>Compensation paid by REPPIA in 2016</b>	11, 932 beneficiaries (Rs. 605,809,359.00) paid by the Rehabilitation of Persons, Property and Industries Authority (REPPIA), Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs	<b>All of 2016</b>
<b>Land released in 2016 in the Northern and Eastern Provinces</b>	5,515.98 acres (state land); 2,090.03 (private land)	<b>All of 2016</b>
<b>Houses handed over to the Internally Displaced in 2016</b>	11,253 houses (Rs. 8,963,109,779.69) handed over to the Internally Displaced – Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs	<b>All of 2016</b>
<b>Right to Information Commission</b>	The appointment of all 5 Commissioners to the Right to Information Commission was completed, thus facilitating the functioning of the Commission	<b>22 December</b>
<b>National Integration and Reconciliation Week declared</b>	The Cabinet of Ministers approved a proposal submitted by the President to declare the week of 8 January – 14 January every year, beginning from 2017, as the National Integration and Reconciliation Week, with the aim of focusing attention on strengthening peace, harmony and fraternity among the people of the country. Programmes focusing on reconciliation are to be held throughout the country in schools, media, and public and private institutions during this week.	<b>20 December</b>
<b>National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) 2017-2021</b>	The draft National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) which was drafted through an inter-ministerial committee set up by Cabinet (18 May 2016), and a broad multi-stakeholder consultative process was presented to the Cabinet of Ministers on 16 December 2016, for approval. The draft is presently being studied by Cabinet.	<b>16 December</b>
<b>North-South Exchange Programme</b>	40 community leaders from Jaffna visited Matara District; stayed with host families in Matara and visited different places of religious and cultural importance. At the end of the visit, they took part in a cultural programme together with people in Matara.	<b>14-18 December</b>
<b>Partnership established: SCRM – IOM</b>	The International Organization for Migrations (IOM) and SCRM established a partnership to share information (international best practices and technical assistance) on the implementation of the Reparations Office. Project supported by the Government of Australia.	<b>14-18 December</b>
<b>Funds for the Office on Missing Persons</b>	Funds for 2017 allocated in the National Budget 2017 under Miscellaneous Vote	<b>10 December</b>
<b>Elimination of Violence against Women within the work place, and empowerment of women</b>	A proposal submitted by the Minister of Women and Child Affairs to establish Committees headed by Senior Officials of Ministries, Departments and Institutions functioning at district level, to eliminate violence against women within the work places, with a view to empowering women in line with international conventions etc., was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers	<b>06 December</b>

<b>Partnership established: SCRM- UN WOMEN</b>	UN Women prepared terms of reference for technical assistance on the participation of women and girls in transitional justice mechanisms, and delivered a briefing to the technical committee on reparations and the working group on the TRC.	<b>28 November-15 December</b>
<b>NOVEMBER 2016</b>		
<b>Enabling legislation on the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance</b>	Draft Bill on the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance was submitted to the Secretary to the Cabinet by the Prime Minister. The Cabinet Memorandum requests approval for the following from Cabinet: (a) to publish the draft Bill in the Gazette; and (b) to present the draft Bill in Parliament	<b>24 November</b>
<b>Measures to prevent delays in the administration of justice</b>	Draft amendments to the Civil Procedure Code to introduce a pre-trial system to prevent delays in the administration of justice was adopted by the Cabinet.	<b>22 November</b>
<b>North-South Exchange Programme</b>	42 community leaders from the South visited Jaffna. They held discussions with leaders of different religions; obtained insight into the lifestyles of the people in Jaffna as each person was placed with a host family in Jaffna. At the conclusion of the visit, they participated in a Shramadana/volunteer programme to paint/ colourwash a hospital complex in Jaffna together with the people from Jaffna	<b>11-15 November</b>
<b>Guidelines for the maintenance of temporary shelters to provide protection for women victims of violence</b>	Cabinet granted approval for Guidelines for the Maintenance of temporary shelters to provide protection for women victims of violence as, apart from Government shelters, temporary shelters are also maintained in private premises with the assistance of police, hospitals and NGOs	<b>8 November</b>
<b>Resettlement of the Internally Displaced: purchase of private land</b>	As per the Ministry of Resettlement, there are 220 families for whom lands remain to be identified for resettlement. Since there is a scarcity of land in the Jaffna District, it was proposed to purchase private land to provide 20 perches of land each per family in order to resettle these 220 families. The Cabinet of Ministers approved the allocation of Rs. 88 Million for the purchase of private land required for this purpose, through the District Secretary, Jaffna.	<b>8 November</b>
<b>Third Sitting of the Constitutional Assembly</b>	-The 3 <sup>rd</sup> sitting of the Constitutional Assembly was presided over by the Speaker as Chairperson of the Constitutional Assembly.  -The 1 <sup>st</sup> Interim Report of the Steering Committee (chaired by the Prime Minister) was presented to the Constitutional Assembly. This Report is a compilation of the 6 sub-committee reports on Fundamental Rights, the Judiciary, Law & Order, Public Service, Public Finance, and Centre-Periphery Relations. The Steering Committee will consider these reports and prepare the Final Report to be placed before the Constitutional Assembly.	<b>19 November</b>

	-Apart from the areas covered by the 6 sub-committees, the Steering Committee is engaged in directly deliberating on core subject areas pertaining to the nature of the State, form and structure of government, principles of devolution, religion, electoral reform, and land. The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Interim Report of the Steering Committee is to be based on these deliberations and presented to the Constitutional Assembly. The Interim Reports do not constitute final decisions of the Steering Committee and the contents of both Reports <b>will be debated by the Constitutional Assembly in early February 2017.</b>	
<b>Moratorium on Death Penalty</b>	<b>Sri Lanka voted in favour of the UN Resolution on the Moratorium on the Use of the Death Penalty</b>	<b>17 November</b>
<b>Policy Framework and National Plan of Action to address Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) in Sri Lanka</b>	The Policy Framework and National Plan of Action to address Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) in Sri Lanka 2016-2020 was launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs	<b>16 November</b>
<b>Convention Against Torture</b>	Sri Lanka's 5 <sup>th</sup> Periodic Report was considered by the Committee Against Torture	<b>15-16 November</b>
<b>Regional Consultations on Transitional Justice</b>	Hosted the Regional Consultations on Transitional Justice in the Asia-Pacific, in Colombo, initiated by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation, and guarantees of non-recurrence	<b>09-10 November</b>
<b>Held discussions on Transitional Justice with the participation of the Special Rapporteur</b>	-with bipartisan group of Ministers -with Military Commanders and Chief of Defence Staff -with Sri Lanka Foreign Service Officers	<b>07-08 November</b>
<b>Amended the List of Designated Persons under Regulation 4(7) of the UN Regulation No. 1 of 2012</b>	- <b>Gazette Notification 1992/25 of 9 November 2016</b> <a href="http://www.documents.gov.lk/files/eqz/2016/11/1992-25_E.pdf">http://www.documents.gov.lk/files/eqz/2016/11/1992-25_E.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.documents.gov.lk/files/eqz/2016/11/1992-25_S.pdf">http://www.documents.gov.lk/files/eqz/2016/11/1992-25_S.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.documents.gov.lk/files/eqz/2016/11/1992-25_T.pdf">http://www.documents.gov.lk/files/eqz/2016/11/1992-25_T.pdf</a>  <i>The number of entities at present: 08</i> <i>Original in 2014: 16</i>  <i>Number of persons at present: 86</i> <i>Original: 424 (ref. Gazette Extraordinary No. 1854/41 of 21 March 2014)</i>	<b>9 November</b>
<b>Witness and Victim Protection Law</b>	The Police Victim and Witness Protection Division was inaugurated (as per the provisions of the <b>Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act</b> )	<b>3 November</b>

<b>Penal Code (Amendment) Draft Bill – Increasing the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility</b>	In view of the minimum age of 8 years being considered too tender to attach criminal responsibility, a proposal was made to the Cabinet of Ministers to amend the Penal Code to increase the age of criminal responsibility of a child from 8 to 12 years, and confer a Magistrate with the discretion to punish a child between 12 years and 14 years only in cases where he finds that such a child has attained sufficient maturity of understanding to judge the nature and consequences of his conduct on that occasion. Approval by the Cabinet of Ministers is to be Gazetted and presented to Parliament.	<b>1 November</b>
<b>OCTOBER 2016</b>		
<b>Interfaith Dialogue (ongoing)</b>	A programme that is intended to promote inter-faith dialogue including inter-ethnic and inter-cultural dialogue to promote national unity and reconciliation. Under this programme, religious priests, government officials, and village leaders are provided training to be change agents and advocaes to facilitate inter-ethnic harmony at the grassroots level.  33 Training of Trainer programmes (TOT) have been conducted by <b>end-October 2016</b> , 121 one day workshops were completed in Jaffna, Anuradhapura, Ratnapura districts with 3221 multi-religious participants who will in turn advocate national integration and reconciliation at grassroots level	
<b>National Plan for Women Headed Households</b>	With a view to ensuring the contribution of women and performance in the development process, a combined approach is being planned to be implemented island-wide for 'women headed households'. Cabinet granted approval for a proposal by the Minister of Women and Child Affairs to formulate a three-year National Plan for Women Headed Households in respect of fields such as health, psycho-social support, livelihood development, support services, protection, social security, raising community awareness	<b>18 October</b>
<b>Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues</b>	Received the UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues	<b>10-20 October</b>
<b>Training for Judges, Prosecutors and Police with assistance of CTED, Australia and the USA</b>	The 11 <sup>th</sup> Regional Workshop for Judges, Prosecutors and Police in South Asia on 'Effectively Countering Terrorism' was jointly hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka, the UN Counter-terrorism Executive Directorate, organized by the Global Center on Cooperative Security with the support of the Governments of Australia and the USA.	<b>3-5 October</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER 2016</b>		
<b>Acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually</b>		<b>30 September</b>

<b>Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled</b>		
<b>Public Disorder Management</b>	A circular on public disorder management was issued to all members of the Sri Lanka Police by the Inspector General of Police. The circular stipulates the protocol to be adhered to by Police Officers when responding to disruption of law and order by groups of persons.	<b>28 September</b>
<b>National Reconciliation Policy</b>	The Draft National Policy on Reconciliation was presented to the Cabinet of Ministers. The Policy is under discussion in the Sub-Committee.	<b>27 September</b>
<b>Deposit of the Instrument of Ratification - Paris Agreement</b>	President Maithripala Sirisena deposited the Instrument of Ratification at the United Nations in New York, through which Sri Lanka formerly joined the Paris Agreement	<b>21 September</b>
<b>Tamil Speaking Police Officers</b>	216 male Tamil-speaking Police Officers were recruited and they commenced training. In addition, 26 Tamil-speaking female officers and 14 sub-inspectors whose vernacular is Tamil were recruited in 2016.	<b>15 September</b>
<b>Parliament debated Climate Change and the Paris Agreement and endorsed its Ratification</b>		<b>9 September</b>
<b>Received the Secretary-General of the UN, Mr. Ban Ki-moon who visited Sri Lanka at the invitation of the Government</b>	The SG had meetings with the President, Prime Minister, Speaker of Parliament and Political Party leaders, the Leader of Opposition, and civil society representatives. He visited Galle and Jaffna as well.	<b>31 August – 2 September</b>
<b>Cabinet of Ministers approved the ratification of the Paris Agreement</b>	The Paris Agreement will be debated in Parliament on 9 September It is expected that the President will lodge the Instrument of Ratification at the UN in New York on 21 September	<b>6 September</b>
<b>Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families</b>	Sri Lanka's 2 <sup>nd</sup> Period Report was considered	<b>1-2 September</b>
<b>AUGUST 2016</b>		
<b>Partnership established: ICRC-SCRM</b>		<b>August</b>



	The International Committee of the red Cross and red Crescent and SCRM started cooperation to provide the OMP with technical assistance, on several issues including the technical requirements for the OMP, training for future staff.	
Parliament approved the Bill to amend the Registration of Deaths (Temporary Provisions) Act No 19 of 2010	Approval of this amendment enables the issuance of 'Certificates of Absence'	25 August
Speaker of the Parliament signed into law, the Bill to establish the Office on Missing Persons	The Office on Missing Persons Act is now in force.	23 August
National Policy on Durable Solutions for conflict-affected displacement approved by the Cabinet of Ministers placed before Cabinet	The Policy was drafted through a process of wide consultations, and with UN expertise. <a href="http://resettlementmin.gov.lk/site/images/stories/new.pdf">http://resettlementmin.gov.lk/site/images/stories/new.pdf</a>	16 August
A Declaration was deposited with the UN Secretary-General recognizing the competence of the UN Committee Against Torture (CAT) to receive individual complaints	A Declaration was deposited with the UN Secretary-General under Article 22 of the Convention Against Torture (CAT) to the effect that the Government of Sri Lanka declares, pursuant to Article 22 of the Convention Against Torture, that it recognizes the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications from or on behalf of individuals subject to its jurisdiction who claim to be victims of a violation by Sri Lanka of the provisions of the Convention  <a href="https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CN/2016/CN.587.2016-Eng.pdf">https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CN/2016/CN.587.2016-Eng.pdf</a>	16 August
Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	Sri Lanka's combined 10 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> Periodic Reports in one document, was considered	15-16 August
Parliament approves the Bill to establish the Office on Missing Persons	Parliament approved the Bill on the establishment of the Office on Missing Persons without a vote	11 August
Establishment of Strategic Consultants Group (SCG)	By recommendation of the Special rapporteur on Truth, Reparations, Justice and Guarantees of non-Recurrence, SCRM established an embedded Strategic Consultants Group, to incorporate international best practices into the TJ mechanisms.	01 August
<b>JULY 2016</b>		

<b>Amendment to the Mediation Boards Act</b>	An Amendment to the Mediation Boards Act aimed at preventing delays in the administration of justice was enacted by Parliament <a href="http://www.parliament.lk/uploads/acts/gbills/english/6012.pdf">http://www.parliament.lk/uploads/acts/gbills/english/6012.pdf</a>  The Mediation Board (Amendment) Act, No 9 of 2016 was certified on <i>21 July 2016</i>	<b>8 July</b>
<b>ICCPR Optional Protocol</b>	The process to formally bring the ratification of the Optional Protocol before Parliament commenced with a view to obtaining formal Parliamentary approval. The Hon Prime Minister stated in Parliament that the Government reconfirms the continued validity and applicability of the Optional Protocol to the ICCPR for Sri Lanka and is firmly committed to implement its provisions.  It is expected that the Hon. Speaker will give a ruling on the matter in the coming months.	<b>7 July</b>
<b>Bill for the issuance of Certificates of Absence entered in the Order Paper of Parliament</b>	<a href="https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/documents/orderpapers/1467369214028055.pdf">https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/documents/orderpapers/1467369214028055.pdf</a>	<b>5 July</b>
<b>Amendment to Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act No 4 of 2015</b>	The Act was brought into operation in May 2016. An amendment to the Act to provide for the victims and witnesses of a crime to record evidence or a statement through audio-visual linkage, from anywhere outside Sri Lanka, without his personal attendance in Court, and to give such evidence through Sri Lanka diplomatic Missions abroad, while ensuring the freedom and lack of any duress on the witness, was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers	<b>5 July</b>
<b>JUNE 2016</b>		
<b>A march held to create awareness on the problem of torture and campaign against the phenomenon</b>	-The President and the Minister of Law & Order joined the walk organized by the National Human Rights Commission	<b>30 June</b>
<b>Right to Information Act passed by Parliament unanimously (without a vote)</b>	<i>-Revision made before enactment: Where the request for information concerns the life and personal liberty of a citizen, the response to it shall be made within 48 hours of the receipt of the request. This revision made to the Bill before enactment, enables a family member of someone arrested or disappeared to access information on an expedited basis. It was originally limited to the 'citizen making the request'</i>	<b>24 June</b>
	<a href="http://www.parliament.lk/uploads/documents/orderpapers/1466517348061047.pdf">http://www.parliament.lk/uploads/documents/orderpapers/1466517348061047.pdf</a>	<b>22</b>

<b>Draft Bill on the Office on Missing Persons placed on the Order Paper of Parliament</b>		<b>June</b>
<b>National Policy on Durable Solutions for conflict-affected displacement placed before Cabinet</b> by the Minister of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs	-The Policy drafted through a process of wide consultations, and with UN expertise, was also made public and placed online:  <i><a href="http://resettlementmin.gov.lk/site/images/stories/new.pdf">http://resettlementmin.gov.lk/site/images/stories/new.pdf</a></i>	<b>21 June</b>
<b>Fresh directives on arrest and detention issued to security forces and police by the President</b>	The President, incorporating many of the recommendations made by the National Human Rights Commission, issued fresh directives on arrest and detention	<b>18 June</b>
<b>Dialogue with the military</b>	Initiated a dialogue with the military on aspects related to reconciliation, transitional justice, human rights, and changes in the security sector	<b>8-9 June</b>
<b>Submission of Reports to Treaty Bodies</b>	Submitted the national report on CRC (combined 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> periodic reports)	<b>8 June</b>
<b>Cabinet Approves draft legislation on Certificates of Absence</b>	The Cabinet of Ministers approved draft legislation enabling the issuance of Certificates of Absence–Registration of Deaths (Temporary Provisions) (Amendment) – Bill to amend the Registration of Deaths (Temporary Provisions) Act No 19 of 2010  The draft legislation has been gazetted and will be placed before Parliament shortly <i>English: <a href="http://documents.gov.lk/files/bill/2016/7/97-2016_E.pdf">http://documents.gov.lk/files/bill/2016/7/97-2016_E.pdf</a></i> <i>Sinhala: <a href="http://documents.gov.lk/files/bill/2016/7/97-2016_S.pdf">http://documents.gov.lk/files/bill/2016/7/97-2016_S.pdf</a></i> <i>Tamil: <a href="http://documents.gov.lk/files/bill/2016/7/97-2016_T.pdf">http://documents.gov.lk/files/bill/2016/7/97-2016_T.pdf</a></i>	<b>7 June</b>
<b>Political asylum seekers issued passports</b>	Lifted restrictions on the issuance of Sri Lankan passports to Sri Lankan citizens who had been compelled to leave the country in the past for political reasons including those who had sought asylum/ refugee status overseas	<b>1 June</b>
<b>Paranagama Commission requested to cease functioning by mid-May and to hand in their final report by mid-July</b>	Data and records will be taken over by the Office on Missing Persons	<b>June</b>

<b>The Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence Mr. Pablo de Greiff visited Sri Lanka</b> at the invitation of the Government, in a technical advisory capacity	-This marked the Special Rapporteur's third visit in approximately one year. He also met with the Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, the State Minister for Defence, the Chief of Defence Staff and the Commanders of the Security Forces	<b>6-10 June</b>
<b>Finalised dates for the visit of the Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues</b>	<i>The dates for the visit are: 10-20 October</i>	<b>June</b>
<b>MAY 2016</b>		
<b>Report of the Public Representations Committee on Consultations on Constitutional Reform submits its Report to Government</b>	<b>The Public Representations Committee established to consult the public on the constitutional reform process submitted its report to the Government. The report is publicly available</b> including online: <i>English:</i> <a href="http://www.yourconstitution.lk/PRCRpt/PRC_english_report-A4.pdf">http://www.yourconstitution.lk/PRCRpt/PRC_english_report-A4.pdf</a> <i>Sinhala:</i> <a href="http://www.yourconstitution.lk/PRCRpt/PRC_sinhala_report-A4.pdf">http://www.yourconstitution.lk/PRCRpt/PRC_sinhala_report-A4.pdf</a> <i>Tamil:</i> <a href="http://www.yourconstitution.lk/PRCRpt/PRC_tamil_report-A4.pdf">http://www.yourconstitution.lk/PRCRpt/PRC_tamil_report-A4.pdf</a>	<b>31 May</b>
<b>Amnesty period for handing over illegal weapons extended</b>	A further amnesty period for handing over of illegal weapons was declared by the Ministry of Defence from 30 May – 17 June 2016	<b>28 May</b>
<b>Ratified the International Convention for the Protection of Persons Against Enforced Disappearance</b>	Enabling legislation is in the advanced stages of preparation and will be presented to Cabinet in July for approval, gazetting and presentation to Parliament shortly	<b>25 May</b>
<b>Cabinet approved the Bill (draft legislation) on the establishment of the Office on Missing Persons and draft Bill gazette</b>	Submissions received from the public through the web-based consultation process were considered in the design of the Office on Missing Persons. Submissions made by civil society groups representing families of the missing were considered as well; two rounds of consultations were held on 9 May (with groups representing families of the missing) and on 20 May with families of the missing from all over the country. Officials of the OHCHR were present as well as observers at the latter. Observations were sought also from OHCHR officials in Colombo and ICRC. Observations were also sought and received from the TNA. The pros and cons of all ad hoc Commissions on Missing Persons held in the 1990s and the Paranagama Commission were studied. Observations and proposals received were all considered and incorporated where possible.	<b>24 May</b>

<b>Government requests Police Commission and Human Rights Commission to prepare an Action Plan on Preventing Torture</b>	Based on the preliminary observations of the Special Rapporteur on Torture, a meeting chaired by the Foreign Minister was held with the National Human Rights and National Police Commissions to urge them to work together to take appropriate action including launching a national awareness campaign and discourse against torture	<b>24 May</b>
<b>No military parades to commemorate end of war</b>	There were no military parades held at all anywhere in the country on 19 May which the previous Government marked as 'Victory Day'. People were allowed to grieve and light lamps. Events were held in the North with the participation of local communities and politicians. In Colombo, a cultural performance was held with emphasis on reconciliation	<b>19 May</b>
<b>National Human Rights Commission issued Directives on arrest and detention</b>	The National Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka issued Directives on arrest and detention under the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act No 48 of 1979 in light of concerns regarding the law enforcement authorities not having adhered to procedures involving some recent arrests	<b>18 May</b>
<b>Witness and Victim Protection Law</b>	<b>All sections of the Witness Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act Operationalized</b>	<b>16 May</b>
<b>Cabinet Approves Inter-Ministerial Committee to formulate the Human Rights Action Plan</b>	<b>The Cabinet of Ministers approved the setting up of an inter-ministerial Committee to draw up the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017-2021</b>	<b>10 May</b>
<b>Ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement at WTO</b>		<b>31 May</b>
<b>Retired Senior DIG of Police and an Inspector arrested for their alleged role in attempting to cover up the May 2012 murder of a rugby player</b>	Investigations on this case had stalled under the previous Government and re-started in February 2015	<b>May</b>
<b>APRIL 2016</b>		
<b>Special Rapporteurs on judicial independence and torture visit Sri Lanka</b>	Received the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers and the Special Rapporteur on torture, other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment & punishment from <i>28 April to 7 May</i> . The Rapporteurs were granted unhindered access including to 'Joseph Camp' in Vavuniya and the Trincomalee Naval Base.	<b>28 April – 7 May</b>
<b>Landmark ruling by the Supreme Court</b>		<b>28 April</b>

	<p>On April 28, the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka ruled that children living or affected by HIV have the full right to education and cannot be discriminated against. The ruling was based on the country's constitutional directive of universal access to education for children between the ages of 5 and 14 years old</p> <p>The first ruling of this nature in South Asia</p>	
<b>Amnesty on illegal weapons</b>	All-island amnesty period declared to hand over illegal weapons (25 April – 6 May) with money paid to those who surrender the weapons	<b>25 April</b>
<b>New law passed to protect people from losing their land due to long-term displacement</b>	<p>Prescription (Special Provisions) Act No. 5 of 2016 passed by Parliament and certified on 26 April 2016</p> <p>The Act enables special provisions in respect of persons who were unable to pursue their rights in court for the recovery of any immovable property including land due to the activities of any militant terrorist group which prevailed in Sri Lanka and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.</p> <p><a href="http://www.parliament.lk/uploads/acts/gbills/english/6009.pdf">http://www.parliament.lk/uploads/acts/gbills/english/6009.pdf</a></p>	<b>26 April</b>
<b>Parliament Meets as a Constitutional Assembly</b>	Parliament met for the first time as a Constitutional Assembly, initiating the process of drafting the new Constitution. Deputy Chairmen and Steering Committee members were appointed	<b>5 April</b>
<b>UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate Visits Sri Lanka</b>	UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) visited from 6-8 April. <i><b>The CTED is providing technical expertise in the drafting of laws to replace the Prevention of Terrorism Act</b></i>	<b>6-8 April</b>
<b>The Ministry of Finance approved the extension of the Government of Sri Lanka-USAID bilateral agreement 'Strengthened Partnership for Democratic Reform and Social Integration'</b>	This Agreement 'houses' all of the bridge and new generation programming in democracy, governance and human rights	<b>April</b>
<b>Committee chaired by the Minister of Law and Order appointed by the Prime Minister to work on new legislation</b>	<p>A Committee chaired by the Minister of Law and Order has been tasked with drafting three new pieces of legislation with priority given to legislation that would <b>replace the current PTA</b> (the other two are an <b>Intelligence Act</b> and an <b>Act against Organised Crime</b>)</p> <p>The Committee is obtaining assistance in this regard from the UN Counter-terrorism Committee Executive Directorate</p>	<b>April</b>

	Observations by the Special Rapporteurs on Torture and on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers have been shared with the Committee; and so have guidelines issued by the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights while countering terrorism.	
<b>MARCH 2016</b>		
<b>US Special Coordinator for Global Criminal Justice Visits Sri Lanka</b>	Received Mr. Todd Buchwald, US Special Coordinator for Global Criminal Justice (29 March – 6 April); held useful discussions on assistance that Sri Lanka could obtain for capacity building.	<b>28 March</b>
<b>Appointed a high-profile and respected individual as Secretary-General of the Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms (SCRM)</b>	The appointment was made by the Secretary to the Prime Minister	<b>March</b>
<b>Instructions to Armed Forces</b>	Commanders of all branches of the security forces were directed by the Ministry of Defence to issue instructions to all Armed Forces Personnel that strict action will be taken against human rights violations. Accordingly, instructions to this effect have been issued by the Commanders of the Army, Navy and the Air Force in April 2016.	<b>18 March</b>
<b>First transgender person appointed to high-level post</b>	<b>First transgender Governor</b> in Sri Lanka; Niluka Ekanayake appointed as Governor of the Central Province by President Maithripala Sirisena	<b>17 March</b>
<b>Parliament resolves to sit as a Constitutional Assembly</b>	The Parliament adopted unanimously, the Resolution for Parliament to sit as a Constitutional Assembly to draft a new Constitution	<b>8 March</b>
<b>Right-to-Information legislation presented in Parliament</b>	The Right to Information Bill was presented to Parliament	<b>8 March</b>
<b>Technical Working Group of the Steering Committee chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, appointed to work on reconciliation</b>	A technical team of the Steering Committee visited South Africa to learn from the experience of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa	<b>5 March</b>

<b>mechanisms, visits South Africa to study TRC</b>		
<b>Cabinet Approves accession to the Mine Ban Convention</b>	The Cabinet of Ministers granted approval for Sri Lanka to become a party to the Mine Ban Convention	<b>3 March</b>
<b>Designation of a key Point of Contact for Open Government Partnership</b>	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs officially designated a key Point of Contact to oversee and coordinate the drafting of the Open Government Partnership National Action Plan (NAP) in close cooperation with civil society	<b>March</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 2016</b>		
<b>Law Commission hands-over draft Bill to replace PTA</b>	The National Law Commission was requested to draft a Bill to replace the PTA in line with contemporary international best practice. The Law Commission draft was handed over to Government in end-February 2016. The draft was also shared with the UN Counter-terrorism Executive Directorate	<b>End-February</b>
<b>Ms. Yasmin Sooka, ITJP (International Truth and Justice Project) invited to visit Sri Lanka</b>	The Minister of Foreign Affairs extended an invitation to Ms. Yasmin Sooka (International Truth and Justice Project Sri Lanka - ITJP) to visit Sri Lanka. This invitation was extended in response to a number of cases highlighted in the reports of the ITJP regarding ongoing torture and sexual violence.	<b>13 February</b>
<b>Launched Public Consultations on Design of Reconciliation Mechanisms</b>	<p><b>Launched Public Consultation Process in the District Secretariat in Jaffna on 12 February, to seek the views of all stakeholders including victims that would inform the designing of transitional justice mechanisms.</b></p> <p><b>Meetings were held between the Consultation Task Force, Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, the Chief of Defence Staff, Security Forces Chiefs, Police Chief and Intelligence Heads to ensure that the public consultation process proceeds smoothly without inference and to establish a mechanism for immediately addressing of complaints.</b></p> <p>Meetings were also held in Jaffna at the District Secretariat on 12 February between the Consultation Task Force, the Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, the Chief of Defence Staff, Security Forces Chiefs in the North and East and Police Heads in the North and East to ensure that the consultation process proceeds without interference, and to discuss and agree on ways to immediately address complaints and to build confidence among the public.</p>	<b>12 February</b>
<b>Ratified the Disabilities Convention</b>	Ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	<b>12 February</b>



<b>High Commissioner for Human Rights Visits Sri Lanka</b>	Received the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein (6-9 February) and facilitated wide-ranging meetings with victims, Opposition, key Ministers, the President and Prime Minister, key officials including the Defence Secretary and the Heads of Security Forces and Intelligence; facilitated his travel to Jaffna and Trincomalee	<b>6-9 February</b>
<b>National Anthem sung in Sinhala and Tamil at Independence Day for the first time in 67 years</b>	Sang the National Anthem in both Sinhala and Tamil at the Independence Day celebrations for the first time in 67 years	<b>4 February</b>
<b>Ratified the ILO Convention on Employment Policy</b>	Ratifications of C122 - Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (No. 122)	<b>3 February</b>
<b>Approval for 5-year National Strategic Plan to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking (2015-2019)</b>	Cabinet approved the 5-year National Strategic Plan to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking (2015-2019)	<b>3 February</b>
<b>JANUARY 2016</b>		
<b>Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence Mr. Pablo de Greiff visits Sri Lanka for the second time on a technical advisory capacity</b>	Invited and received the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence to Sri Lanka in an advisory capacity to share views, knowledge and expertise with the Consultation Task Force and the Government between 26 January and 1 <sup>st</sup> February.	<b>26 January</b>
<b>Destroyed publicly, ivory tusks confiscated by Customs, from elephant poaching, to prevent its trade in the black market</b>	High profile event in the presence of the President. First country in South Asia to publicly destroy ivory tusks. <i>(The container-load of ivory was detected in May 2012 while it was in transit to Dubai from the Kenyan port of Mombasa, falsely labelled as storing plastic waste)</i>	<b>26 January</b>
<b>Consultations Task Force on Reconciliation Mechanisms appointed</b>	Appointed an 11-member Consultation Task Force, and two advisory panels, consisting of leading public personalities (civil society members) to lead nation-wide public consultations (in line with the provisions of Resolution 30/1) that will inform the design of the mechanisms for truth-seeking, justice, and reparations.	<b>24 January</b>

<b>EU-Sri Lanka Working Group on Human Rights Meets</b>	Started an annual dialogue with the European Union through the EU-Sri Lanka Working Group on Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights; the initial meeting of the Working Group was held on 20 January	<b>20 January</b>
<b>Endorsed Sexual Violence in Conflict Declaration</b>	Endorsed the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict	<b>12 January</b>
<b>Constitutional Reform: Special session of Parliament</b>	A Special Session of Parliament was convened to mark the 1 <sup>st</sup> anniversary of the formation of the National Unity Government following the Presidential Election on 8 January 2015; in order to commence work on adopting a Framework Resolution on the appointment of the Constitutional Assembly and commence work on the process of Constitutional Reform	<b>9 January</b>
<b>President pardons suicide bomber who attempted to assassinate him when he held a ministerial portfolio in the past during the years of conflict</b>	President pardoned and released the ex-LTTE combatant charged for attempting to assassinate him when he was a Cabinet Minister.	<b>7 January</b>
<b>Sri Lanka agrees as a policy measure, to respond to communications submitted as per the provision of the Optional Protocol to the ICCPR</b>	Informed the UN Human Rights Committee that, in the future, Sri Lanka will respond to communications submitted as per the provision of the Optional Protocol to the ICCPR	<b>20 January</b>
<b>Witness Protection Authority set-up</b>	National Authority for the Protection of Crime and Witnesses set-up. One of its first tasks is to review the witness protection Act. The Police has also initiated action to set-up a Witness Protection Division	
<b>DECEMBER 2015</b>		
<b>Land released in the Northern and Eastern Provinces in 2015</b>	24,424 acres (state land); 1,770.91 acres (private land)  <i>[Land release from May 2009 to 8 January 2015: 22,254.01 acres (state land); 20,099.73 acres (private land)]</i>	<b>All of 2015</b>
	Extended a Standing Invitation to all UN thematic Special Procedures Mandate Holders to visit Sri Lanka	<b>17</b>

<b>Standing Invitations to Special Procedures</b>		<b>December</b>
<b>Cabinet Approves creation of Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms</b>	The Cabinet of Ministers approved the establishment of the Secretariat for the Coordination of Reconciliation Mechanisms (SCRM) which is tasked with the design and implementation of the mechanisms envisioned in the Resolution 30/1 as per the proposals of the Government of Sri Lanka	<b>17 December</b>
<b>Signed the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance</b>	Signed the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	<b>10 December</b>
<b>Cabinet Approval for Right to Information Act</b>	The Cabinet of Ministers approved the Right to Information Bill	<b>2 December</b>
<b>November 2015</b>		
<b>De-proscribed diaspora organisations and individuals</b>	De-proscribed 8 organisations and 269 individuals from the Overseas Sri Lankan community	<b>20 November</b>
<b>Informed the UN Secretary-General of the termination of all derogations previously notified under the ICCPR</b>	The Emergency Regulations that were promulgated in August 2005 by means of a Presidential Proclamation pursuant to Section 5 of the Public Security Ordinance were allowed to lapse in August 2011;	<b>19 November</b>
<b>UN Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearance visits</b>	The Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) visited Sri Lanka from 9 to 18 November at the invitation of the Government. They were given access to all facilities, including the Trincomalee Navy Base. This is the first visit of the Working Group to Sri Lanka in 16 years.	<b>9 November</b>
<b>October 2015</b>		
<b>Sri Lanka joined the Open Government Partnership (OGP)</b>	Sri Lanka endorsed the Open Government Declaration committing to foster a global culture of open government that empowers and delivers for citizens, and advances the ideals of open and participatory government, thereby becoming the first and only country in South Asia to join the OGP	<b>28 October</b>
<b>Udalagama and Paranagama Commission Reports made public</b>	Tabled the Udalagama and Paranagama Commission Reports in Parliament. These reports as well as the Report of the OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka (OISL) can be accessed online at <a href="http://www.scrm.gov.lk/">http://www.scrm.gov.lk/</a> (under resources in all three languages)	<b>17 October</b>
	Police, Human Rights and Public Services Commissions appointed by independent Constitutional Council. The Human Rights Commission is headed by Dr. Deepika Udagama, a noted human rights defender	

<b>Independent Police, HR and Public Services Commissions appointed</b>		
<b>Death penalty moratorium announced</b>	Announced that Sri Lanka will maintain a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its eventual abolition. Sri Lanka subsequently voted for the resolution in the Third Committee.	<b>7 October</b>
<b>Soldiers convicted of sexual assault</b>	The Jaffna High Court convicted four soldiers for sexually assaulting two women	<b>6 October</b>
<b>Invited civil society to submit ideas on how to conduct the public consultations process for the development of mechanisms for truth-seeking, justice and reparations</b>	The Minister of Foreign Affairs addressed a meeting involving civil society groups from all over the country convened by civil society at the request of Government, to seek the views and ideas of civil society on the nature the consultation process should take	<b>29 October</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER 2015</b>		
<b>Co-sponsored the Resolution 30/1 titled '<i>Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka</i>'</b>	Resolution tabled by US in the UN Human Rights Council	<b>1 October</b>
<b>TNA Leader, R. Sampanthan MP, appointed as the Leader of Opposition in Parliament</b>	Appointment announced by the Speaker of Parliament	<b>3 September</b>
<b>Cabinet approved the introduction of Certificates of Absence for those reported missing</b>		<b>September</b>
<b>Endorsed the Kigali Principles on the Protection of Civilians</b>	The first country in South Asia and only country in South Asia to endorse the principles so far	<b>September</b>
<b>The Constitutional Council, the body responsible for appointing members of the Independent Commissions, including the Police and</b>		<b>September</b>

<b>Human Rights Commissions was appointed</b>		
<b>AUGUST 2015</b>		
<b>Closed the last checkpoint in the country, the Omanthai checkpoint</b>	Last checkpoint in the country, the Omanthai checkpoint, closed	<b>29 August</b>
<b>Arrested four army personnel, including two senior officers, in connection with the disappearance of dissident cartoonist, Prageeth Ekneligoda</b>		<b>August</b>
<b>JULY 2015</b>		
<b>The Supreme Court granted leave to proceed with regard to the five fundamental rights petitions against police inaction during the clashes at Aluthgama in 2014</b>		<b>9 July</b>
<b>JUNE 2015</b>		
<b>Ratified the Palermo Protocol</b>	Ratified the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime	<b>15 June</b>
<b>Army soldier sentenced for murder of eight persons in Mirusuvil by the Colombo High Court</b>		<b>25 June</b>
<b>MAY 2015</b>		
<b>Victory Day renamed Remembrance Day</b>	People all over the country were also allowed to grieve which had been denied before. President Sirisena, speaking on 19 May emphasized that reconciliation involves truth-seeking, justice and reparations. He also outlined the twin objectives of the government – reconciliation and development	<b>19 May</b>
<b>Combating Corruption</b>	Created the Presidential Commission on Fraud and Corruption to investigate reports of corruption	

<b>APRIL 2015</b>		
<b>Passed the 19th Amendment to the Constitution</b>	The 19 <sup>th</sup> amendment repealed the 18 <sup>th</sup> amendment and re-established democracy through the reduction of Presidential power, re-introduction of term limits and the introduction of independent bodies for appointment and oversight of key institutions including the judiciary, police, public service etc.  <i>Following its passage in Parliament, the 19th amendment to the Constitution was certified on 15 May 2015</i>	<b>28 April</b>
<b>Received at the invitation of the Government, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of Truth, Justice and Non-recurrence, Pablo de Greiff, in a technical-advisory capacity</b>		<b>30 March- 3 April</b>
<b>MARCH 2015</b>		
<b>Released Jayakumary Balendran and eight others detained under the PTA</b>		<b>March</b>
<b>Sent circular to all ministries stating there is no prohibition for singing the National Anthem in Tamil</b>	The practice of singing the national anthem in Tamil had been stopped under the previous government	<b>March</b>
<b>Arrested three navy sailors in connection with the murder of TNA MP N. Raviraj</b>		<b>March</b>
<b>Creation of the Office of National Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR)</b>	This Office which focuses on project based reconciliation efforts and on measures to ensure non-recurrence is headed by former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga	<b>March</b>
<b>President Maithripala Sirisena and Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera meet organisations representing</b>		<b>March</b>

<b>Tamils of Sri Lankan origin in London</b>		
<b>FEBRUARY 2015</b>		
<b>Parliament passed the Witness and Victim Protection Act</b>	Parliament passed the Witness and Victim Protection Act, unanimously, without a vote	<b>19 February</b>
<b>Departing from the triumphalism of the past, the Government made a Declaration of Peace</b>	At the national Independence Day celebrations, a Declaration of Peace was made in all three languages resolving to ensure non-recurrence and to grieve for all who had succumbed to violence since Independence	<b>4 February</b>
<b>Combating Corruption</b>	The government's Anti-Corruption Committee establishes an operational arm, the Anti-Corruption Secretariat (ACS) headed by Ananda Wijepala. Four other coordinators appointed Deputy Directors, representing the Attorney General's office, the Police, the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC), and one other representative. A new police division under the leadership of Deputy Inspector of Police Waidyalankara set up to facilitate the ACS's work. Created the Financial Crimes Investigation Division under Deputy Inspector General Ravi Waidyalankara to investigate financial fraud	<b>February</b>
<b>National Drug Policy passed by Parliament</b>		<b>19 February</b>
<b>JANUARY 2015</b>		
<b>Discontinued the practice of issuing a Presidential Proclamation under the Public Security Ordinance declaring a state of emergency, calling out the armed forces and giving them extensive powers to regulate civilian life</b>		<b>January</b>
<b>Appointed a Tamil as Governor of the Central Bank</b>	Tamil senior economist and financial services expert Arjuna Mahendran was appointed as Governor of the Central Bank	<b>January</b>
<b>Removed military governors of the North and East and replaced them with civilians</b>		<b>January</b>

<b>Restored and enhanced media freedom</b>	Ended censorship of websites, withdrew restrictions on foreign journalists visiting Sri Lanka and invited exiled journalists to return to Sri Lanka with a promise of safety; freedom of travel within the country for all journalists including foreign journalists was restored. Visa restrictions on foreign journalists were lifted.	<b>January</b>
<b>The senior-most judge of the Supreme Court, an ethnic Tamil, appointed the Chief Justice</b>	Mr. K. Sripavan was appointed as the Chief Justice	<b>January</b>
<b>The NGO Secretariat was moved from under the purview of the Ministry of Defence to the Ministry of National Dialogue</b>		<b>January</b>
<b>Lifted the ban on foreigners visiting the North and East, and also restrictions on the transportation of goods to and from the North</b>		<b>January</b>
<b>Placed the Attorney-General's Department under the Ministry of Justice rather than the Presidential Secretariat</b>	Ceased the practice of the previous government of placing the AG's Department under the Presidential Secretariat	<b>January</b>
<b>Department of Immigration and Emigration removed from under the purview of the Ministry of Defence and placed under the Ministry of Internal Affairs</b>		<b>January</b>
<b>Invited all refugees to return to Sri Lanka</b>	Extended an open invitation to all Sri Lankan refugees to return to Sri Lanka	<b>January</b>