



EQUALITY. DIGNITY.
ACCESS FOR ALL.



Every citizen in Sri Lanka has a legal right to equal access and the use of public spaces, buildings, and services. Protecting the accessibility rights of persons with disabilities is not just a matter of compassion—it is a **fundamental human right**.

YOUR RIGHTS



1. Right to Accessibility

You have the right to access and use public places, buildings, transportation, information, and services in an accessible and safe manner.



2. Duty of Public Authorities

Government institutions, local authorities, and service providers must ensure reasonable accommodation and barrier-free access in all public spaces and facilities.



3. Right to Dignity and Inclusion

You have the right to live independently and participate fully in society without discrimination.



4. Legal Protection

Discrimination based on disability is prohibited by law. You can take legal action if your rights are denied.



WHERE DOES THIS RIGHT COME FROM?

- ✓ Article 12(1) of the Constitution of Sri Lanka – Right to equality and freedom from discrimination.
- ✓ Persons with Disabilities Act, No. 28 of 1996.
- ✓ United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) – ratified by Sri Lanka.



An accessible environment builds an inclusive society.

Inclusion is not a privilege.
It is **your right**.



ACCESSIBILITY IS A RIGHT. INCLUSION IS A MUST.
TOGETHER, LET'S BUILD AN ACCESSIBLE SRI LANKA FOR ALL.



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EQUAL ACCESS.
EQUAL RIGHTS.
EQUAL DIGNITY.

1. THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK



Article 12(2) of the Constitution of Sri Lanka

This Article guarantees that no citizen shall be subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, language, caste, sex, political opinion, place of birth or any such ground as **physical or mental disability**.



The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, No. 28 of 1996

This is the principal domestic legislation enacted to promote, protect, and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities.



Gazette Notification No. 1467/19 dated 17th October 2006

This mandatory regulation requires all public buildings, public places, and public services in Sri Lanka to be designed and constructed to ensure an **Accessible Built Environment** for persons with disabilities.



THE LAW IS CLEAR. YOUR RIGHTS ARE REAL.

Accessibility is not a privilege.
It is your legal right.
Together, let's build an inclusive Sri Lanka where everyone can participate equally.



INCLUSION IS A RIGHT. ACCESSIBILITY IS A DUTY. JUSTICE IS FOR ALL.



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2. MANDATORY FACILITIES IN PUBLIC SPACES

According to the Gazette Notification, before issuing a **Certificate of Conformity (COC)** for any new public or private building, the following facilities must be provided as a legal requirement:



1 RAMPS

Slip-resistant ramps with handrails must be provided at all entrance points, designed in accordance with the required standards, to ensure easy access for wheelchair users.



2 ACCESSIBLE TOILETS

At least one accessible toilet must be provided, with enough space for wheelchair maneuverability, grab bars, and doors that are easy to open.



3 RESERVED PARKING

A reserved parking space with the International Symbol of Access must be provided near the main entrance, with adequate width.



4 LIFTS & DOORWAYS

Lift control panels must have Braille markings and audio systems. Doorways must be wide enough to allow easy access for wheelchairs.



**ACCESSIBILITY IS NOT A FAVOUR. IT IS A RIGHT.
AN INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT BENEFITS EVERYONE.**



A BARRIER-FREE SRI LANKA IS A STRONGER SRI LANKA.



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EQUAL ACCESS.
EQUAL RIGHTS.
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES.

3. EMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL RIGHTS

Persons with disabilities have the right to equal opportunities in employment and to work in an environment that respects their dignity and abilities.



3% QUOTA IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

The Government is policy-bound to reserve **3%** of all recruitments in the public sector for qualified persons with disabilities.



KEY POINTS

- ✓ This is a policy commitment to promote equal opportunity.
- ✓ Only qualified candidates are considered.
- ✓ A step towards an inclusive and representative public service.



**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IS A RIGHT,
NOT A PRIVILEGE.**



REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

Employees with disabilities have the right to request reasonable accommodation in their workplace to perform their duties effectively.



EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

- ✓ Assistive computer software and adaptive technologies
- ✓ Ergonomic furniture and workspace adjustments
- ✓ Flexible working hours or shift arrangements
- ✓ Job restructuring, if necessary, to enable full participation



**INCLUSIVE WORKPLACES EMPOWER EVERYONE
AND STRENGTHEN OUR NATION.**



**DISABILITY IS NOT INABILITY.
LET'S BUILD A WORKPLACE WHERE EVERYONE CAN THRIVE.**



INCLUSION



RESPECT



EQUALITY



OPPORTUNITY



DIGNITY



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ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION IN PUBLIC SPACES

4. WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOUR RIGHTS ARE VIOLATED?

If you are denied access or discriminated against in a public space or public institution:



1 Notify the Institutional Head in Writing

Submit a written request to the head of the institution, clearly stating the issue and referring to the relevant Gazette Notification provisions. Request the necessary accessibility facilities.



2 Lodge a Complaint with the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL)

You can file an official complaint with the HRCSL, as the denial of access or discrimination amounts to a violation of fundamental human rights.



3 File a Fundamental Rights (FR) Petition in the Supreme Court

You can file a Fundamental Rights case before the Supreme Court seeking systemic change and compensation through the public interest litigation process.



YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- ✓ Equal access to all public spaces and services
- ✓ Be treated with dignity and respect
- ✓ Live and participate in society without discrimination
- ✓ Seek justice when your rights are violated



**Accessibility is not a favour. It is your legal right.
Stand up. Speak up. Know your rights.**



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS. CLAIM YOUR RIGHTS.
TOGETHER FOR AN INCLUSIVE SRI LANKA.



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