

**Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Steering Committee Meeting,
[Region] Report**

1. Data on the number of women representatives

Including:

Statistics in legislatures, executive, company boards

Changes in representation following elections

Affirmative Action policies, as they relate to quotas, constitutional, legislative, electoral changes

Political Party Reforms and appointments of women within the Party Structures

Total number of women representatives in the Parliament of Sri Lanka – 22

Legislature (Parliament of Sri Lanka)- 22

Executive- 02 (Prime Minister and Minister of Women and Child Affairs)

Affirmative Action Policies/Laws

Constitutional Provisions in Sri Lanka

Article 12 (1) - all persons are equal before the law and are entitled to the equal protection of the law

Article 12 (2)- prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, language, caste, sex, political opinion and place of birth

Article 12 (4) - allows special legal provisions to be made for the advancement and protection of disadvantaged groups.

Quotas

Parliament – N/A

Provincial Councils -

Provincial Councils Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 17 of 2017 provides the following provisions;

- “Each political party or independent group shall ensure that not less than one-sixth of the total number of candidates to be nominated on the electorate list, and not less than fifty percent of the total number of candidates in the district list, shall be women candidates. “
- “Further that, the Commissioner of Elections shall, by notice published in the Gazette, simultaneously with the call for nominations, specify the number of women candidates to be nominated on each nomination list, in respect of each administrative district.”

	Local Authorities- Local Authorities Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 16 Of 2017 • “Not less than twenty five percent of the total number of members in each local authority shall be women members.”
2. Status of the CWP in regional constitutions Including: Updates in Regional Constitutional changes and/or challenges where applicable	
3. CWP Regional Structure Including: Updates on changes and/or challenges to Regional CWP Structures	

4. Regional Budget for CWP Activities Including: Updates on changes and/or challenges to Regional CPA Budgets where applicable	
5. Regional Conference – What role did CWP play? Including: Updates on changes and/or challenges to holding a regular CWP meeting at CPA Regional Conferences Updates on Regional CWP activities	
6. CPA International Executive Committee – does your region have a female Member? Including: Updates on changes to Regional Representatives to	Hon. Dr.(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne,MP – CWP Steering Committee Member for the Asia Region

the CPA International Executive Committee	
7. Initiatives linked to CWP Thematic Priorities undertaken by Parliaments and/or Regions Including: Legislation, resources, Inter-organizational strategies, Intra-Ministerial and Civil Society Cooperation and all other strategies.	
8. The Contribution of women parliamentarians to The Parliamentarian journal article	
9. Other Including, for example: Strategies to Overcome Gender Inequality Education Gender Quotas Leadership programmes Childcare	Ministry of Women and Child Affairs Women's Bureau of Sri Lanka Women's Charter 1938 Women Help Line Police women and Children Bureau Women Parliamentarians Caucus in Parliament Prevention of Domestic Violence Act No. 34 of 2005 National Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Women Empowerment Act No. 37 of 2024 and it includes provisions for;

Mechanisms to prevent political violence Equal access to Party resources Coordination with other like-minded Women's organizations	a) Establishing a National Commission on Women (NCW) to safeguard women's rights, provide remedies for rights violations, and address violence against women b) Formulating and implementing Sri Lanka's National Policy on women's advancement and empowerment c) Appointing an Ombuds for Women's Rights to handle complaints related to gender-based violence and rights violations d) Establishing a National fund for women, which will be managed by the NCW to support its financial needs and programmes promoting women's rights.
---	--