

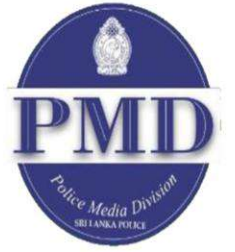


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பொலீஸ் ஊடகப் பிரிவு

POLICE MEDIA DIVISION

14 වන මහල, සුභරූපාය, බත්තරමුල්ල



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## International Women's Day – 2026.03.08

“Our tribute to the woman who conquers the world with courage”

Today marks International Women's Day, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to women across the world. Every year on **March 8**, the world celebrates this day to recognize the extraordinary contributions of women and to draw global attention to the challenges they continue to face. The **Sri Lanka Police** proudly joins the global community in commemorating **International Women's Day 2026**, under the theme “**The Aspiration for a Prosperous Nation – The Pathway of Women.**”

International Women's Day is not merely a commemorative event but a reflection of the struggles, sacrifices, and achievements of women throughout human history. The origins of this day can be traced to the 1908 movement for the rights of working women in New York, United States. Subsequently, at an international conference in Denmark, Clara Zetkin proposed establishing a dedicated day to advocate for women's rights worldwide. As a result, several European countries began celebrating this day from **1911** onwards. Although the concept of Women's Day emerged internationally, it gained wider recognition in **Sri Lanka** after the **United Nations (UN)** officially declared **March 8 as International Women's Day in 1975.**

International Women's Day recognizes the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. Each year, a major national ceremony is organized in Sri Lanka to mark this occasion, during which women who have made outstanding contributions in various sectors are honored and awarded.

### Sri Lanka Police Service and Its Contribution to Women

Examining the history of the **Sri Lanka Police**, the recruitment of women into the police service began for the first time in **1952**. The inaugural group consisted of several **female Sub-Inspectors and Women Police Constables**. Since then, women officers

have steadily progressed and today serve in many senior positions within the Sri Lanka Police.

In terms of services provided for the protection and welfare of women:

- The **Sri Lanka Police** maintains several specialized units dedicated to safeguarding women's rights and ensuring their safety.
- **Children and Women's Bureau:** Established in almost every police station, this bureau investigates cases related to violence against women, domestic abuse, and child protection. It also provides a supportive and secure environment where women victims can express their concerns with confidence.
- **Women Police Officers** also conduct community awareness programmes at the village level and organize safety education programmes for schoolchildren.

### **Hotline Numbers for Women's Safety and Assistance**

| <b>Institution</b>                    | <b>Hotline</b>            | <b>Description</b>   |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Sri Lanka Police (Emergency) children | <b>109</b>                | To report crimes related to women and children                                       |
| Women's Helpline                      | <b>1938</b>               | Operated by the Ministry of Women's Affairs to provide counseling and legal guidance |
| Sri Lanka Police (Emergency)          | <b>119</b><br><b>/118</b> | For any emergency requiring police assistance  |
| Sri Lanka Police                      | <b>107</b>                | Operational hotline to lodge complaints in Tamil                                     |

We extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude to all mothers, sisters, and daughters across the world who enrich society and give meaning to life. The Sri Lanka Police remains committed to ensuring the dignity, protection, and respect of women every day of the year.

**Police Media Division**