



# Reparations for Women in Sri Lanka

## WHAT ARE REPARATIONS?

The term 'reparations' originated from the Latin word *reparō*

The act of repairing or mending, restoring



Reparations are something that one does or gives to correct a mistake or wrongdoing. Reparations are made by governments to make amends for wars, serious crimes, and abuse



Reparations seek to repair the rights of individuals and communities that have been affected by human rights violations and provide State recognition of victims' rights by addressing the suffering caused by violation of those rights

Monetary payment to compensate for harm caused to the victim based on the gravity of the violation

Return to the original state before the violation occurred

### RETURN OF;

- citizenship
- employment
- residence
- land

RESTITUTION

COMPENSATION

## TYPES OF REPARATIONS

SATISFACTION

REHABILITATION

GUARANTEES OF NON-REPETITION

### SYMBOLIC REPARATIONS;

- public apologies
- national days of remembrance
- naming of roads for victims
- building of monuments and installations
- establishing museums and memory gardens

### PROVISION OF SERVICES TO ASSIST VICTIMS;

- medical and psychological care
- legal and social services
- economic assistance

### STATE SECTOR REFORMS;

- strengthening of the judiciary
- law and security sector



## INDIVIDUAL REPARATIONS

Individual reparations recognize specific harms to specific victims. Victims include individuals who indirectly suffer harm as a result of crimes targeting another.  
*Eg. a family member*



## COLLECTIVE REPARATIONS

Collective reparations address the causes and consequences of violations that affect people from the same region or community or who share the same identity or experiences of violations



## JUDICIAL REPARATIONS

Victims can file a criminal claim against a perpetrator or a civil claim for reparations in a court of law



## ADMINISTRATIVE REPARATIONS

Applied in contexts of widespread violations and can address the individual and collective dimensions of harm in a more comprehensive and holistic way than a court can. *Eg. housing, land, restitution, satisfaction, rehabilitation and guarantees of non-recurrence*

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PROVIDE REPARATIONS?



Reparations contribute to sustainable peace by building trust in the state and its ability to safeguard and uphold human rights



Reparations seek to fulfill victims' rights that have been violated



Victims require material assistance and symbolic recognition to heal their physical and mental wounds, and restore their dignity



International law and domestic law recognise that victims of human rights violations have a right to a remedy



When the State prioritizes the needs of victims, it demonstrates its commitment to providing this remedy to victims which builds victims' trust toward the State



Reparations strengthen social solidarity and thereby contribute to long-term stability of a country



# OFFICE FOR REPARATIONS

established by law in October 2018

## MANDATE



## AND ROLE



Identify aggrieved victims that qualify for reparation and providing appropriate reparations



Provide reparations to those who have suffered damage as a result of loss of life or damage to their person or property in connection with the **armed conflict, political unrest or civil disturbances**



Receive direct applications from aggrieved persons or their representatives



Formulate policies, guidelines and recommendations on reparations



Provide administrative, logistical, psychological support to aggrieved persons



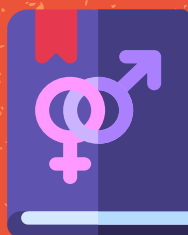
Provide protection of an aggrieved person



Provide information and advice to aggrieved persons on their rights and on reparation procedures



Facilitate the provision of forms of assistance to aggrieved persons



## WHY DO WE NEED A GENDER SENSITIVE REPARATIONS POLICY?



Women experience human rights violations differently from men



Female victim survivors of political/sexual violence are left destitute with increased care responsibilities, lower opportunities for economic engagement in comparison to male victims survivors



During or after conflict situations, women take sole responsibility and burden of caring for their families



If women are widowed, they can be ostracized in their communities or abandoned by their families



So that women own the reparations process and due recognition is given to men and women victims



So that it provides a gendered understanding of past abuses and the impact of such abuses



Provide ground level data to Office for Reparations to facilitate the reparation process



Update and maintain a database on recommendations for reparations to be granted to aggrieved persons



Provide relevant information to women in local languages

Keep aggrieved persons or their representatives informed and respond to queries on the status of the applications made for reparations



Be sensitive to the needs of aggrieved persons including women, children and persons living with disability

Conduct consultations with aggrieved persons, organizations and authorities representing aggrieved persons



## HOW CAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FACILITATE WOMEN'S ACCESS TO REPARATIONS?

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